FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk October 1, 2017

Mid edition No 784

ROADS

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You'll not believe some of the speeds people are doing

SPORT

Who will be next Gillingham boss?

Chairman Paul Scally on the hunt after Pennock quits

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Kent on Sunday

Sister title of KENT LIFE

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Brexit negotiations are never going to please all

YOU can't please everyone all the time.

This week our mail bag delivered an anonymous letter with a cutting of a story we ran two weeks ago about a trial run of the Thames Clipper boat service from Gravesend.

The writer described it as, and I quote, "bloody useless editorial" because it didn't contain either the price of the tickets or a timetable.

The fact it was a free trial and that any future service was both years off and thus no ticket price announced – both of which were clearly mentioned in the story – appeared not to deter our mystery reader from wasting a second class stamp in mailing it to us.

Or, indeed a similar cutting in the same envelope complaining a car's boot wasn't pictured open in a car review.

It gave me a brief glimpse of what life must be like for those trying to negotiate our exit from the European Union.

The referendum did not provide scope for any form of explanation as to why someone may want us to leave Brexit, so as the government now gets its hands dirty in carrying out the wishes of the majority, so too does it find itself under fire for just about every aspect of the negotiations.

And therein lies both the beauty and confusion of the democracy we live in. We all have our own opinions and our own views. The trick is to remember your views are just that, and not always the correct ones. It is, after all, just your personal opinion.

So it would be wise to remember that whatever you may think of the government, the best interests of Britain, broadly, will be at the heart of what they seek to achieve. If you didn't want to leave the EU it's unlikely to appease you. If you wanted us just to stick our fingers up at our continental cousins and flounce off, then you'll be left cross too. Just like our disgruntled reader.

Editor **Chris Britcher**

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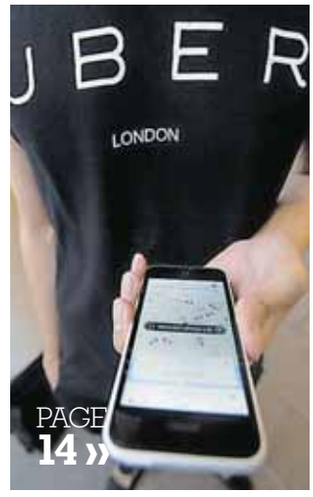

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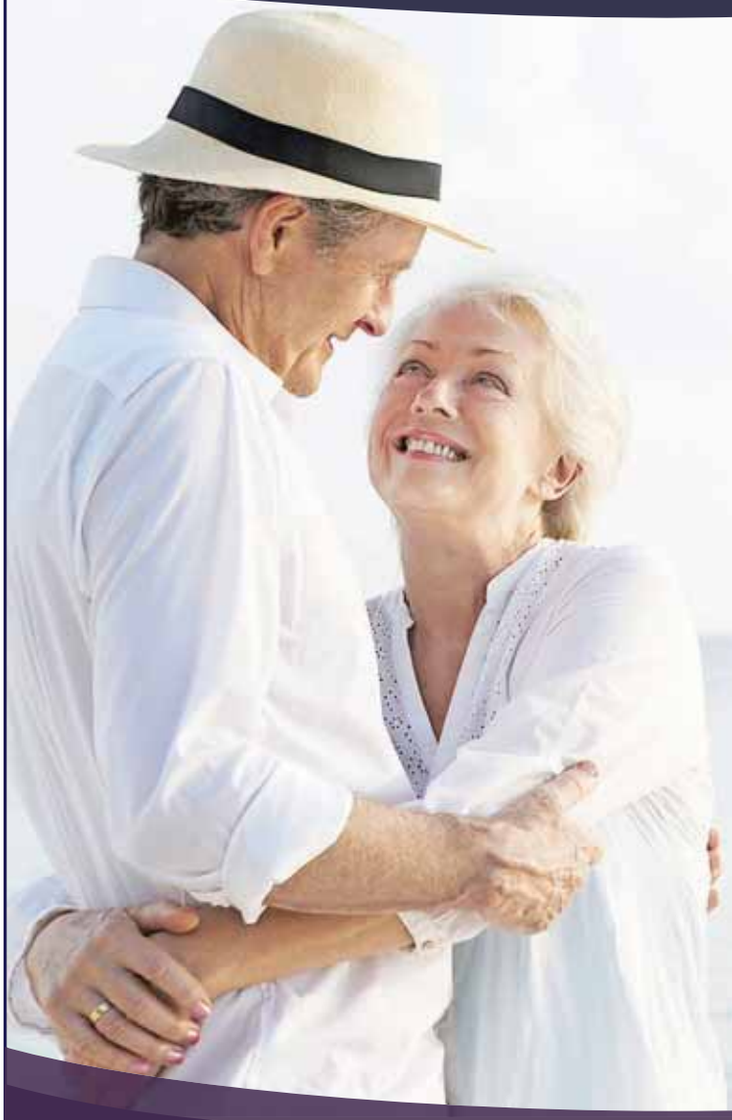

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Bolton victorious as he is named Ukip's new leader

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

WINNER: Henry Bolton was fourth favourite ahead of the poll but on Friday afternoon took the crown

HENRY Bolton called on Ukip members to "rally around the party and be united" as he defied the odds to be named leader in a shock result on Friday.

Mr Bolton, who lives in Folkestone and stood as the party's candidate in last year's Kent police and crime commissioner election, was fourth favourite for the top job going into the conference in Torquay, but beat off the favourites - anti-Islam campaigner Anne Marie Waters and London Assembly member Peter Whittle - to win with 3,874 votes.

He takes on what many consider to be a poisoned chalice, with the party suffering a succession of short leadership stints following the decision to leave the European Union last June.

Paul Nuttall's reign will be defined by disastrous election results for the party both nationally and at county council level, while his predecessor, Diane James, lasted just 18 days.

Indeed, Mr Bolton joked to members in his victory speech, saying: "I would like to thank those who didn't vote for me because you were probably trying to do me a favour."

The dad-of-three, who told KoS last week the party had "a moral purpose to deliver Brexit" insisted it needed strong leadership going forward over the coming months and years.

He said: "Brexit is our core task. However it is not the end of the line.

"We as a nation want to have that right of self determination, to be responsible for our own destiny and not have it decided in a foreign capital.

"We want to do that so we can be a global, outward-looking trading nation that can protect its own way of life. I do not see myself as being your leader, I see myself as serving this party. You are the party, not me.

"This party needs to serve its country. There is no greater calling than that.

"I would call on all of you, whether you voted for me or not, to please rally around the party and be united because without being united, we cannot lead and hold the government to account and achieve our core purpose."

Even last week, the clear divisions within the party could be seen here in Kent, as Mr Bolton and Chris Wells, the leader of Ukip's only council in the country in Thanet, publicly clashed over the future of Manston airport and the general running of the council."

Plan drawn up to avoid winter of discontent in our health service

NHS chiefs in east Kent have begun a 12-month plan for improvement in emergency care - part of which is designed to ensure there is no crisis during the busy winter months.

Among the key elements will be cutting down on overnight stays in hospital, mental health teams on call in A&E departments around the clock, and identifying frail or at risk patients early to help them avoid hospital care.

It has also been confirmed that East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, which recently saw it CEO Matthew Kershaw quit, has hired 10 new emergency doctors to help ease pressure the A&E departments of Ashford and Margate hospitals.

Simon Perks is accountable officer for NHS Ashford and NHS Canterbury and Coastal CCGs.

He explained: "Ensuring patients can access the care they need in the community, seeing patients more quickly in hospital emergency departments and improving the experience for patients is the priority for the NHS in east Kent. We are focusing on ensuring that the entire local NHS is caring for patients in the right place at the right time, whether that's in a hospital bed, in a community setting or at home."

East Kent Hospitals acting chief executive Liz Shutler said: "Patients attending the emergency departments are assessed soon after arriving and critically ill patients are prioritised and treated quickly. However, this means that people attending with non-life threatening illnesses and injuries can wait for a long time and this is not the standard we want for any of our patients.

"We have been successful in a bid for £800,000 to help make the departments at Ashford and Margate hospitals fit for purpose. This refurbishment work has begun and will be completed in October. We have recently recruited 10 permanent emergency doctors joining east Kent hospitals in the next two months."

School confirms it has joined multi-academy trust

CANTERBURY secondary school the Spires Academy confirmed on Friday afternoon it is to become part of the E21C academy trust.

The school found itself caught up in a major row two years ago when Simon Langton Girls' Grammar attempted to become a multi-academy trust and take the improving school under its wing.

The handling of the move by head teacher Jane Robinson and the board of governors saw Mrs Robinson eventually resign and many of the governers quit too.

Now Spires will become part of the E21C (Education for the 21st Century) multi-academy trust based in Bromley.

Says its CEO Paul Murphy: "We are delighted with this opportunity to launch our hub in Kent."

CCG chair quits post amid 'challenging time for NHS'

CHAIR of the NHS group which plans health care in north west Kent has stepped down amid "challenging times".

Dr Elizabeth Lunt quit the NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group, saying she wants to "get more involved with shaping the future direction of health in the local area".

Deputy chair Ashley West will fill Dr Lunt's role as interim chair.

Dr Lunt said: "These are challenging times for the NHS. We are looking at how we can do things differently locally to make health and social care services more joined up. The role of chair of the CCG is a very demanding one and I wasn't able to be as involved in developing a new model of care as I'd like to be."

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Cop fined £1,800 for dodging paying rail fares

A SERVING police officer in Bromley has been fined for dodging train fares seven times.

PC Benjamin Cassar, 24, admitted to making the journeys between Maidstone East and Bromley South between April 5 and April 20, as he travelled to work at the Met's roads and transport policing command.

The offences came to light after an investigation by the Met's directorate of professional standards.

After admitting his guilt this week, Cassar was fined a total of £1,800 and ordered to pay costs of £85, a victim surcharge of £120 and £101.60 compensation to Southeastern. A Met Police spokesperson said: ''Now criminal matters have concluded misconduct matters will be considered.''

'Day of reckoning' looms for KCC as Carter says 'elastic at breaking point'

By Tom Pyman
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FRONTLINE services across Kent face an imminent "day of reckoning" if central government does not provide additional funding, the county council leader has warned.

At a meeting of KCC's cabinet at County Hall in Maidstone this week, Paul Carter issued the stark warning to members as the local authority begins putting together its next budget, which will ultimately be rubber-stamped in February.

KCC has had to make almost a quarter of a billion pounds in savings as central government funding is being slashed year-on-year and with the council also suffering from an overspend to the tune of £11m, Cllr Carter admitted there is only so much more it can take before crucial services would have to be cut.

He told members: "The compounding effect makes every year more difficult, in other words, the mountain to climb becomes more steep. The consequences for next year's budget and the year after really are very significant.

CHALLENGE: County Hall

"So far we've always said at budget-setting day that we've broadly protected frontline services and there have been no significant detrimental cuts in our budget, but next year is enormously worrying that we will not be able to say that.

"I'm sure we'll find a way of balancing this year's budget, but the big problem is setting a sensible, intelligent budget for next year and the year after."

Cllr Carter also revealed he was meeting each of the county's MPs one-on-one to discuss the potential impact on services.

"The elastic is absolutely at its breaking point now and you can't do the impossible," he said.

"What we've got to do is get government to understand that we are facing the impossibility of delivering that through traditional routes and there will be a day of reckoning if this continues."

Transport chief Matthew Balfour added: "We need to be much more blatant over the next couple of months as to where those cuts are likely to have to fall.

"It would be wrong to misguide the people of Kent as to where things are going to have to change."

ICONIC: The famous landscape

White Cliffs' £1m target is hit in weeks

A £1million fundraising target set by the National Trust to help secure 700,000 square metres of land immediately behind the White Cliffs of Dover has been reached in just three weeks.

The campaign will enable the restoration of habitat and land conditions, improve public access, and inspire future generations to connect with the heritage and history of the area, the conservation charity said.

It was backed by Dame Vera Lynn, The Forces' Sweetheart, so christened after her performances of the 1942 classic named after the Kent landmark helped lift the spirits of British servicemen.

Virginia Portman, White Cliffs general manager, said: "We have been absolutely blown away by the public's response to our appeal.

"Over 17,500 people have made donations in the last few weeks and thanks to their generosity, this wonderful landscape now belongs to the nation, for ever."

Dame Vera added: "My thanks to everyone who embraced the campaign to protect this national icon.

"The White Cliffs of Dover are a significant landmark and it is so encouraging to know that they will now be protected for future generations."

Two dead after big crash in Hawkhurst

A TEENAGE girl was left fighting for her life in hospital after a smash in Hawkhurst last weekend which left two people dead.

Another man and another teenager were also hurt following the crash when a red Volvo hatchback, heading in the direction of Sandhurst, slammed into a wall on the A268 Rye Road near Foxhole Lane at around 9.30pm last Saturday.

A Kent Police spokesperson confirmed a 44-year-old man from the Cranbrook area and a 50-year-old from north Wales were both confirmed as dead at the scene.

Officers closed the road for investigation work, before it was reopened at around 3.40am on Sunday morning.

A Kent Police spokesperson said: ''Anyone who witnessed the collision or saw the Volvo just beforehand, and has not yet spoken to police is asked to contact the serious collision investigation unit on 01622 798538 or email sciu.td@kent.pnn.police.uk quoting reference DK/BG/214/17.''

Sir Roger confirmed to stand once more

SIR Roger Gale has once again been selected to stand as Conservative MP for North Thanet in the next general election - which were he to once again win could see him still serving at the age of 84.

Sir Roger, 74, was unanimously backed following a meeting of the North Thanet Conservative Association in a secret ballot.

It means if the next election takes place as prime minister Theresa May insists, in 2022, he'll be 79 at the next election and looking at securing another five year term.

The veteran MP said: ''Do I anticipate an election in the near future or before 2022? No, I do not. Are we ready to fight an election whenever it may take place? Yes, most certainly we are.

''In today's terms I am still relatively young, enjoy reasonable health and am as mentally agile as ever.

''I have unfinished work to see though and projects to be brought to fruition in Herne Bay and in Thanet.''

Sir Roger was first elected as a Conservative MP in 1983, during Margaret Thatcher's term in office.

Schools in lock down as man is charged

A 23-year-old from Dartford appeared in court on Wednesday charged with attempted murder.

Rasak Osomo, 23 of Willow Road in the town, was arrested after an incident was reported in Heath Lane on Monday afternoon which forced three schools to go into 'lock down' as a safety precaution while police attended nearby.

He has since been charged with attempted murder, attempting to cause grievous bodily harm and threatening a person with a blade.

A man was treated for minor injuries at Darent Valley Hospital following the incident.

A spokesperson from Kent Police said: ''Officers are keen to speak to anyone who may have witnessed the incident to call the Kent Police appeal line on 01474 366149 quoting reference number 25-0720.

''They would also like to speak to anyone who may have footage of the incident.''

He was remanded in custody during the court hearing and will next appear at Woolwich Crown Court on October 25.

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Police chief vows force has learned lesson on crime stats

By Tom Pyman
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KENT Police's crime recording practices have improved three months after a watchdog warned the force had "taken its eye off the ball", the county's top cop has insisted.

In June, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) found Kent Police was only correctly recording around 84 per cent of reported crimes, meaning 24,000 crimes a year were not making it onto the force's books.

Speaking at his quarterly performance and delivery board meeting on Wednesday at the force's headquarters in Maidstone, at which he holds chief constable Alan Pughsley to account in public, police and crime commissioner, Matthew Scott said: "The results weren't good."

He went on to ask: "Hypothetically, if HMIC was to return tomorrow – you know I intend to invite them back sooner than later – are you absolutely confident that they would find greater accuracy?"

Mr Pughsley was keen to emphasise nobody within Kent Police was "supressing crime in any way, shape or form".

He said improvements had been made to the force's administrative processes around crime data integrity accuracy, and that those improvements explained why recorded crime in Kent had increased.

IMPROVEMENTS: Chief constable Alan Pughsley insists things are now better

Mr Pughsley added: "If you rolled forward to the end of the year, if we said January 2018 for example, and HMIC came in and inspected our data then, I would be wholly confident that our accuracy would be regularly at 90-plus per cent."

Mr Scott said after the meeting: "I am satisfied with the actions the force has taken and the chief constable has provided me with assurances that, when the force is looked at again, we wouldn't be in the same situation as we were found earlier this year.

"A lot of lessons have been learned, processes have been changed, and training has been done."

He again stated his intention to write to HMIC, inviting its inspectors to return to Kent to inspect the force again at a suitable time.

"We await to see what happens when I do invite HMIC back, probably next year," he said.

Puppies dumped in woodland recovering

SIX poorly springer spaniel puppies are being cared for by the RSPCA after they were found dumped in woods near Ashford.

The 10-week-old pups were found by a member of the public huddled on a pile of logs in woods in High Halden last month. Now they're being treated for sarcoptic mange, also known as fox mange, and ear mites. An investigation into who abandoned them is under way.

Sheerness bridge's Dunkirk connection

A £3m bridge at the Port of Sheerness will be named Wildfire Bridge to commemorate the historic rescue mission in Dunkirk.

The name references HMS Wildfire III, the British naval shore establishment forming part of the Sheerness base, and HMS Wildfire, which coordinated smaller ships heading to Dunkirk.

Grapes send sales up

INTEREST in Kentish wines "has never been higher", a winery CEO has claimed as it announced a rise in sales by more than a fifth.

Chapel Down, based in Tenterden, saw revenues increase by 22 per cent, with 50 acres of new vineyards planted on its new leased sites in the county. Chief executive Frazer Thompson said: "English wine is exciting the wine world."

Pothole repair project set to continue until Christmas

KENT County Council says it is shelling out £5.2 million to fill potholes in our roads, before temperatures plunge.

The blitz began in April and will run up until December - assuming the weather remains good during October and November.

So far, the authority has splashed out £2.7m, filling the equivalent of 133,600 individual potholes on a road network of over 5,000 miles.

It has contracted the work out to local companies in the districts to ensure quicker response times to reports of problems.

KCC cabinet member for highways Matthew Balfour said: "Potholes are one of the biggest bugbears for our residents and remain one of our top priorities each year.

"We've got local crews working on filling potholes who know their areas and this year we've extended the scheme up until Christmas to ensure our roads are ready for the winter months ahead.

"People often assume these are quick and temporary fixes but I can assure you these are not. We do a quality, first time fix, and do not expect to be back out again fixing the same pothole."

Drug dealer has cars and Rolex confiscated by cops

A DRUG dealer involved in the importation of heroin, cocaine and cannabis into Kent has been ordered to pay back £228,000 - with cops seizing cars and a Rolex watch all purchased with the proceeds of crime.

Stephen Hall, 55, formally of Trafalgar Close in Rochester, was sentenced to 20 years in prison in 2014.

He and nine other men were involved in an organised criminal gang which imported Class A and Class B drugs from Europe.

Hall was ordered to pay back the funds via the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

In order to afford the payment, a number of assets were seized including cash, a Rolex watch and a number of cars including a drag racer.

One of the other offenders was also ordered to pay back £100,000.

Officers conducted multiple seizures of drugs leading up to the arrest of Hall.

This included the recovery of 126 kilos of herbal cannabis from Church Close in Rochester in 2012 and the seizure of Class A drugs from a taxi in London in 2013.

Officers also intercepted a total of 67 kilos of heroin, 13 kilos of cocaine and 75 kilos of cannabis in two incidents in Germany in 2013 and 2014.

DC Mark Froome said: "We always try to recoup the proceeds of any criminal activity so they don't continue to benefit from their illegal dealings once released from prison."

Statue of Dame Kelly

A STATUE of Dame Kelly Holmes is to be erected in a flower bed at one of the main entrances to Tonbridge.

Donated by Guy Portelli, it will stand on a raised bed on Quarry Hill Road. Dame Kelly, who grew up in Hildenborough, won double gold in 2004.

Full power at Dungeness

NUCLEAR power station Dungeness B is back in full operation following a three-month maintenance project.

Last year the station on the south coast generated a record-breaking amount of power - the equivalent of two million homes, or the whole Kent three times over.

Uni unveils latest venue

THE University of Kent in Canterbury has launched a new conferences and event building.

The Sibson building includes three lecture theatres, six meeting rooms and space for a central atrium networking space for up to 250 people.

Mock bridge demolition

A GROUP of Royal Engineers carried out a mock demolition of Rochester Bridge on Tuesday night as part of a training exercise.

Dummy plastic explosives were attached to the structure across the Medway, which was closed as part of routine maintenance taking place.

going beyond...

Northfleet Technology College

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Chicken meat trader jailed

By Luke May
luke.may@archant.co.uk

NEARLY 12 tonnes of chicken bound for takeaways around the south east has been destroyed after an investigation found it was "unfit for human consumption".

And the man responsible - who used a converted concrete mixer to create chicken doner kebab meat - was this week jailed for four months.

It follows an investigation by Sevenoaks District Council which discovered the meat being sold from a Swanley-based business to kebab shops, food manufacturers and other food businesses across London and the south east. It described the case as "one of the most serious breaches of food safety laws we have ever come across".

Sukru Ahmet, of East Rochester Way, Sidcup, was the man behind UK Chicken Doner & Poultry Ltd.

An investigation from the council discovered the 60-year-old had been selling the unsafe poultry since at least November 2014 from units at Upper Hockenden Farm in Maidstone Road, Swanley.

In November 2015, Ahmet had told the council he intended to run a food business. Told he would need council approval, he told inspectors he would not be processing meat.

But a visit from inspectors one month later proved he was.

Despite a notice to stop, officers found and seized 11.75 tonnes of poultry in April 2016.

An investigation into Ahmet's businesses found he had been trading under another name, United Meat and Poultry Suppliers, from November 2014 to December 2015, without the council's approval.

Officers discovered meat past its use-by dates was ready to be sold, while other packages had no clear dates, and some products from Germany had been re-labelled to claim they had been produced in the UK.

All the seized chicken was incinerated.

In March, Ahmet plead guilty to 21 charges of breaching food safety and hygiene laws.

On Thursday he was jailed for four months and ordered to pay both the council's and the court's trial costs, totalling £11,880, with his company also given a £30,000 fine and made to pay the other half of costs, totalling £53,760.

SEIZED: Some of the 11.75 tonnes of chicken meat seized and subsequently incinerated following investigation

Boundary consultation

VOTERS in Dartford are being urged to have their say on changes to the borough's ward boundaries.

The Local Government Boundary Commission is running a public consultation as part of an electoral review to reshape the borough's wards.

The proposed change is expected to cut two councillors from Dartford Borough Council, bringing the total number down to 42.

The consultation runs until December 4 with draft recommendations revealed next February. To have your say visit consultation.lgbce.org.uk.

Star backs hunting ban

PAUL O'Grady has joined a list of celebrities supporting a campaign for the National Trust to ban hunting on its land.

The TV presenter and comedian, who lives in Aldington, near Folkestone, has put his weight behind the League Against Cruel Sports' campaign which comes just ahead of the National Trust asking its members to vote on a ban. He joins Bill Oddie and Chris Packham.

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Day 3: Today we see the charming, traditional seaside town of **Shanklin** and the Victorian town of **Ventnor.** From here we go and see one of the natural wonders of the English coastline when we visit Alum Bay and view the famous **'Needles'** There's time to browse and enjoy lunch at **Alum Bay** if you wish.
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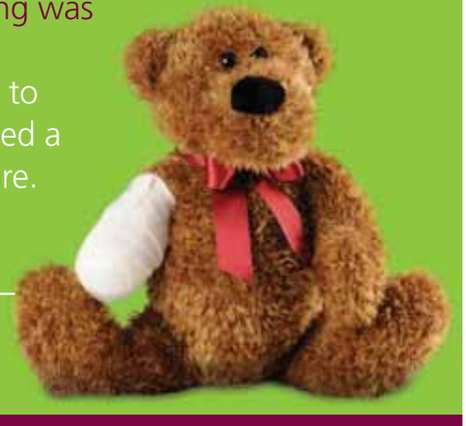

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150mph on M25 is tip of a worrying speed iceberg

A Freedom of Information request has revealed the staggering speeds drivers are hitting on the roads across county

By Tom Pyman
Tom.Pyman@archant.co.uk

DRIVERS were caught hitting staggering speeds of up to 150mph on Kent roads last year, new figures have revealed.

Kent Police recorded hundreds of cases of drivers speeding at more than 100mph in 2016/17, with one Volkswagen Golf reaching 111mph on the B2174 Princes Road, near Rowan Cresecent in Dartford - a road where the speed limit is just 40mph.

The data, obtained by BBC Radio Kent through a Freedom of Information request, shows the majority of offences occurring between junction 5 of the M25 and the Clacket Lane Services, near Westerham.

However, drivers were also caught racking up three-figure speeds on stretches of the M20 as well as roads including the Wainscott By-pass, Strood; A2 Dover Road both in Canterbury and Shepherdswell; A289 Medway Tunnel, towards Rochester and the A249 at Newington.

Earlier this year, greater punishments for the worst speeding offenders came into force.

These included a fine of 50 per cent of the driver's weekly income plus three points on their licence when caught doing 71-90mph on the motorway.

For those caught doing 91-100mph, the Sentencing Council imposed a fine worth 100 per cent of their weekly income plus four to six points or a driving ban for seven to 28 days.

And for those caught driving at 101mph-plus, the fine equalled 150 per cent of weekly income, plus six points or a seven to 56-day driving ban.

Some road safety chiefs, however, believe the punishments are not enough of a deterrent and that too many drivers still believe they can hit terrifying speeds without getting caught.

Jason Wakeford, director of campaigns at the charity, Brake, told us: "Enforcement is one of the big issues, not just on speeding but other crimes as well, like using your mobile phone or driving under the influence of drink or drugs.

"There have been a lot of high profile street races this summer, with some caught doing 134mph in the West Midlands.

"They were prosecuted but escaped jail time because they didn't kill anyone - that sends out completely the wrong message.

"There's so many problems with the justice system.

"The Ministry of Justice consulted on a change in the law including increasing the jail sentence for dangerous driving from 14 years to life – that closed at the beginning of the year, but we're still waiting.

"There's no one silver bullet or else we would have got it by now.

"On every journey there needs to be that expectation that you will get caught, and the punishment needs to be more severe as a proper deterrent."

With police budgets being rapidly slashed every year, enforcement has been made that much harder, though Mr Wakeford pointed to a successful trial in North Wales where members of the public have helped capture motoring offences including careless or dangerous driving.

However, Brian Macdowall of the Kent branch of the Alliance of British Drivers, said the priority should be to crack down on other ways in which drivers behave at the wheel, not necessarily simply how hard they're pushing the accelerator.

"As with everything, there is a hardcore minority who flout the rules of the road, but they do not represent the majority of sober, sensible, careful drivers," he said.

"If you look at the major causes of accidents, failure to look properly is top, and speeding comes in about eighth or ninth.

"We need to detach the myth that speed is automatically synonymous with dangerous driving."

Mr Macdowall added that, despite the staggering statistics, he believes increasing the speed limit on motorways by 10mph, as was briefly mooted back in 2010, could still be justified.

"The hardcore minority should have the book thrown at them, we don't want those people on the road," he said.

"The speed limit was set in 1965 and cars are now light years away in engineering terms than they were then.

"It is not the major cause of accidents, the predominant fact is too many people switch off behind the wheel, only focus on the pedals and mirrors and are not looking further down the road.

"We are not saying put your foot right to the floor, but travelling above 70mph can be safe if in your judgement the road is clear and there is nothing that would cause you or anyone else an accident."

Mr Wakeford, at Brake, however, believes there is no justification for increasing the speed limit.

He said: "It's a real misconception. Yes, cars are better and can brake better but thinking time has not improved, in fact, it's probably got worse with more distractions such as GPS, Bluetooth and people looking at their phones.

"Quite simply, if you are travelling at a fast speed, it takes longer to stop. You can only imagine what those impacts will be at 100mph, so having an increased speed limit is a recipe for disaster.

"If everyone on the motorway travelled at 50mph you'd actually get to your destination quicker because people are changing lanes and going different speeds."

Responding to the release of the figures this week, Kent Police's superintendent Phil Hibbens said: "Kent has the biggest strategic road network in the country and officers carry out patrols on the motorways in both marked and unmarked vehicles to help identify people who are committing offences.

"It is not just the roads policing unit which keep our roads safe – there are additional resources which support them, as well as local policing teams who carry out enforcement.

"Across Kent and Medway there are a number of fixed and mobile camera sites, which are managed by the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership.

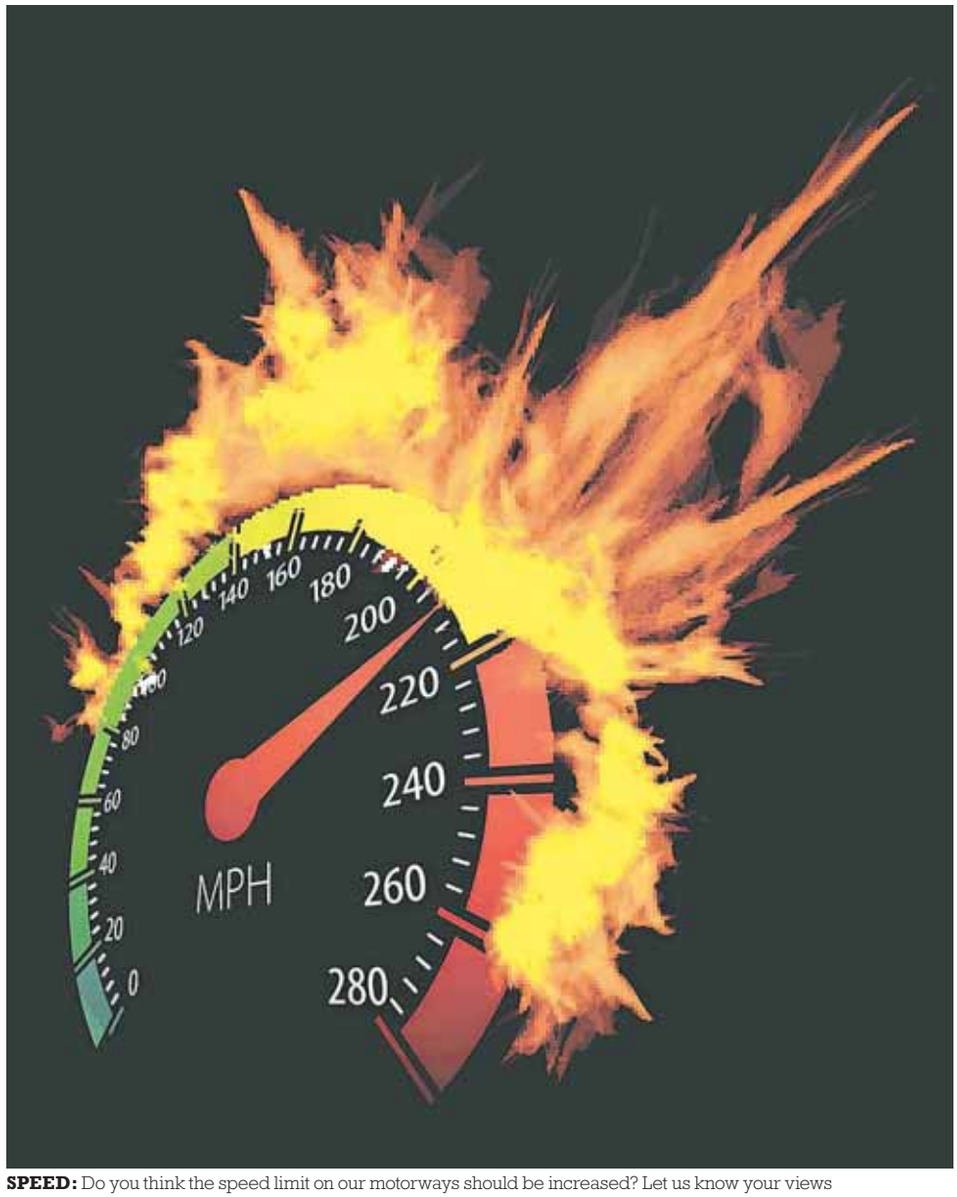
"This is supported by 100 Community Speedwatch schemes across the county, where volunteers from local communities detect and report vehicles caught speeding to the police.

"A variety of road safety campaigns are delivered each year on a number of issues including speeding, mobile phone use, drink and drug driving, HGVs and seatbelts in order to prevent dangerous driving taking place.

"Kent Police, in partnership with other road safety professionals, are committed to preventing harm on the roads, but road users have a responsibility to play their part too.

"Motorists have a personal responsibility to drive not only within the law but also to the conditions of the road.

"Exceeding the speed limit is irresponsible, speeding at 100mph or more is extremely dangerous."



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112MPH - Porsche 911 on A2 Dover Road, near Wick Lane, Barham, Canterbury
111MPH - Volkswagen Golf on B2174 Princes Road, near Rowan Crescent, Dartford

Blood contamination victims to sue after High Court's decision

But Kent victim of the scandal says it is shameful it has taken so long and that the government has forced those suffering to embark on a lengthy legal fight, in order to finally get justice they deserve

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A VICTIM of the blood contamination scandal from Kent says "the notion you have to take your own government to court...is truly shameful" after victims and their families won a ruling allowing them to launch a High Court group action seeking damages.

A High Court official said it was "appropriate" to immediately issue a group litigation order allowing a potential 500 claimants - surviving victims of contamination and the families of the deceased - to join together to claim compensation.

The official, Senior Master Fontaine, made the order despite opposition from lawyers acting for the Department of Health who argued the application was "premature".

The case concerns imported blood-clotting products derived from blood plasma which caused haemophiliacs and others to be infected with HIV and hepatitis in the 1970s and 80s and has so far led to the deaths of at least 2,400 NHS patients.

The claimants allege that the DoH failed in its duty to take reasonable care to prevent injury or loss to NHS patients when contaminated blood products manufactured from blood donated "from unsafe sources", mainly in the USA, were imported into the UK, causing a large number of haemophiliacs to be infected with hepatitis C and HIV.

In the US, prisoners and people who were addicted to drugs were among those paid to give their blood to meet the rising demand for commercial blood products.

Their contaminated donations were mixed in with those of others.

In the lead case of Jason Evans, it is alleged the health secretary failed to provide "prompt and timely" notification to the patient about the risk of infection.

Other allegations include a failure to promptly notify infected claimants that they had become infected.

Master Fontaine was told more than 4,500 people contracted hepatitis C and/or HIV in the 1970s and 80s.

Steven Snowden QC, appearing for the claimants, told the court it had recently come to light that information and documents which could have helped the victims and families in cases brought earlier had not been disclosed.

In the light of that lack of disclosure, argued Mr Snowden, it would be "unconscionable" for the Department of Health to rely on earlier settlement agreements and undertakings given by families to prevent them now pursuing further litigation.

The ruling on Tuesday follows an announcement by the prime minister in July that a public inquiry is to be held into what she described as "an appalling tragedy which should simply never have happened".

Des Collins, of Watford-based law firm Collins Solicitors, which won the group litigation order, said: "The recent announcement of a public inquiry into these matters has at last indicated some willingness on the part of government to address the claimant's concerns.

"Against this background it is regrettable that the secretary of state for health has not chosen to do so in these civil proceedings."

Steve Dymond, 61, from Broadstairs was infected with hepatitis C - which causes damage to the liver - after receiving infected blood as part of his treatment for mild haemophilia - a condition which prevents blood from clotting normally.

Speaking this week, he said: "The notion you have to take your own government to court for something that falls within their zone of responsibility is truly shameful.

"Compensation can never give back the lost years but it could do someway to making up for the loss of pension rights, salary and life opportunities this has denied us.

"Compensation would be a clear sign of recognition; that is prepared to pay for its mistakes.

"The High Court has dismissed attempts to delay legal proceedings still further and victims should be able to present evidence while it still exists and they are alive to do so.

"But it means bereaved families and seriously ill haemophiliac victims are forced to drag the Department of Health through the courts to force Whitehall officials to accept their responsibility for the contaminated blood scandal.

"It is shameful in a civilised society that vulnerable victims and their families are forced to resort to burdensome legal action to compel the government to behave decently in compensating them for their neglect and their continuing cover up."

Labour mayor of Manchester, Andy Burnham, described the scandal as a "criminal cover-up on an industrial scale" in the Commons earlier this year, as pressure was applied to the prime minister to fully investigate just what happened.

Adds Mr Dymond: "Compensation in any form cannot repair the damage wrought on so many haemophiliac families, simply put 'all the king's men couldn't put Humpty together again' such is the human devastation wreaked on the haemophilia community by this scandal. But decent compensation would be a clear marker that the fault and responsibility for this treatment disaster, lay not with the victims and their families, but with the state and its operatives.

"It would be a clear recognition that the state would assume their responsibility for some 2,400 deaths and cease to hide continuously behind implausible excuses.

"Compensation at decent levels should enable haemophiliac victims and their families to live out their foreshortened remaining years with a restored dignity. It would be a small comfort that my widow-to-be would be provided for after my premature death.

"The struggles to compel Department of Health officials to accept their responsibility and liability for the contaminated blood scandal have been likened to the labours of Sisyphus [who kept pushing a boulder up a hill only for it to keep slipping down] - an endless unrelenting struggle, with inattention leading to fatal consequences.

"By some irony, one senses that the boulder is rolling downhill, through the forthcoming legal cases against the Department of Health and a full public inquiry, to confront those responsible for what is termed in USA 'the haemophilia holocaust'. That Sisyphus earned his punishment for self aggrandising craftiness and deceitfulness would seem to be a fitting description of the behaviour and tactics of the Department of Health over the last 40 years towards the small vulnerable community of haemophiliacs."

CAMPAIGN: KoS has supported the victims of the scandal in an on-going campaign for the last two years

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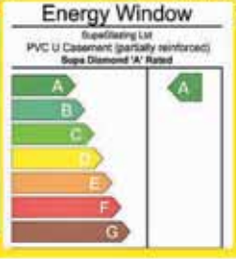

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Is it time for cab app Uber to finally slam on the brakes?

After Transport for London said it would not renew its licence to operate in the capital, there is now a call in some parts of the county to see the ban extended across Kent. We look at the scale of Uber here and just what ruling means

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PRESSURE in Medway is growing on taxi firm Uber after opposition councillors called for the company to be banned from operating on the streets following the decision by Transport for London to not renew its licence.

The firm, which is set to mount an appeal against the decision in the capital, has drivers operating across the county.

Unlike normal cab firms, Uber's main selling point is allowing users to book a cab via their smartphones with a price agreed in advance - often considerably cheaper than local firms.

But despite being hugely popular, TfL recently announced it was not renewing its licence to operate in the capital as it was not a "fit and proper" private car hire operator.

A key concern cited by TfL was Uber's failure to meet the required standards in a number of areas, including its approach to reporting serious criminal offences and how medical certificates were obtained.

Its licence expired this Saturday, but it will be able to continue to operate until the appeals process has been exhausted. It is thought that could last months, meaning Uber will continue to serve its 3.5 million customers in the city via a network of 40,000 drivers.

But although Medway Council does not licence Uber separately, the company can operate quite legally in the towns - as long as they're not hailed in the street.

Dan McDonald is the Labour group's spokesman for licensing. He said it was good news Uber drivers would soon not be able to operate in the towns after TfL pulls the licence, but that Medway Council need to get as tough as TfL.

He explained: "Uber has been run out of London for failing to clean up its act.

"We must not allow Medway Council to become a soft touch if those London-licensed Uber drivers seek to continue operating by obtaining new private hire licences here.

"Uber has been able to grow so quickly by flouting rules and cutting corners.

"Medway should also have the courage to stand up to Uber's sharp practices to protect the livelihoods of drivers who play by the rules and to protect passenger safety."

Uber denies it has flouted rules, although its chief executive this week admitted it had made mistakes and apologised for them.

Dara Khosrowshahi, who only took over the firm in the summer, said: "While Uber had revolutionised the way people move in cities around the world, it's equally true that we've got things wrong along the way.

"On behalf of everyone at Uber globally, I'd like to apologise for the mistakes we've made.

"We will appeal this decision on behalf of millions of Londoners, but we do so with the knowledge that we must also change."

In a letter sent to staff, he said he believed the decision was based on past behaviour.

He wrote: "The truth is that there is a high cost to a bad reputation. It really matters what people think of us, especially in a global business like ours.

"It's critical that we act with integrity in everything we do, and learn how to be a better partner to every city we operate in. That doesn't mean abandoning our principles – we will vigorously appeal TfL's decision – but rather building trust through our actions and our behaviour. In doing so, we will show that Uber is not just a really great product, but a really great company that is meaningfully contributing to society, beyond its business and its

MAYOR: Sadiq Khan supports TfL decision

BENEFITS: Traditional cab drivers have never liked Uber, but consumers find its ease of use and cheaper fares a compelling proposition

bottom line."

Medway Council says it would respond to any problems from users of the service, but said so far it had not received any.

A spokesman explained: "Uber is operating legally within our area and we have not experienced any problems to date with the company. Uber is allowed to operate in Medway via its app booking system, but its drivers cannot pick people up who attempt to flag them down on the street; that would go against the terms of their licences."

Following the Uber CEO's open letter admitting its mistakes, London mayor Sadiq Khan said meetings between the firm and TfL chiefs would be facilitated in a bid to iron out the problems.

Certainly the strength of feeling among its users is strong. A petition started up following the TfL decision has already gained more than 800,000 signatures.

But, like in London, those most furious with Uber's increasing popularity

Continued on page 16

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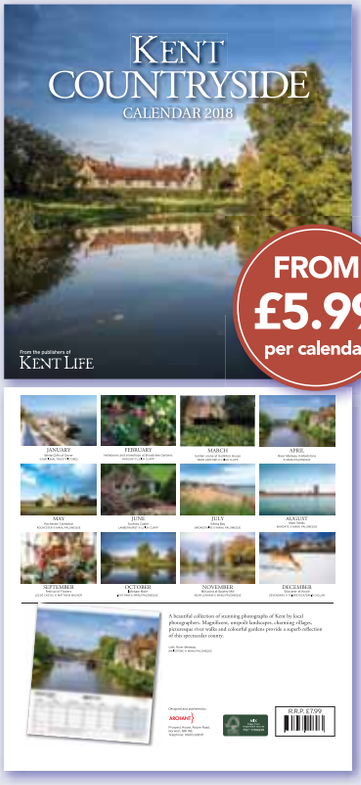

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Continued from page 15

have been local, licensed, cab drivers.

Ian Walton, vice chairman of the Medway Licensed Taxi Drivers Association said Medway Council was among the strictest in the country when it comes to vehicle and driver tests.

Hackney Carriages in Medway have to be white with uniform signage. These use taxi ranks and cannot be hailed. Private hire cars in the town are red, and once more need uniform signage. These can be booked and hailed.

Other towns can have similar rules.

Mr Walton explains: "Uber do not always appear to be operating within their licensing areas. I have seen Uber cars parked up in Medway waiting for work, even though they are licensed through Transport for London.

"Several years ago, a court case muddied the waters when three drivers were prosecuted for cross-border operating and eventually won their case.

"The judge at the time, I feel, did not make the judgement clear enough and now we have the present situation where it seems Uber and other similar drivers are able to work wherever they feel like it. That means the public could be put at risk because there does not appear to be a level playing field when it comes to testing and insurance cover."

Uber denies the problem, pointing out that all its drivers need a private hire licence from an area where Uber has a licence - in practice the same as other cab drivers - and that it has strict criteria for the age and quality of cars used by its drivers.

Ian Brenchley has run Canterbury Taxi Ltd for 17 years. He told us: "Some people may feel having them is for the better, but many people say to me that you are taking your life in to your own hands by getting in to one of their vehicles.

"Because the driver, no matter how well intentioned, is no better than someone who has just sat their driving test. They are not controlled by anybody. They get a licence and then set free in to the industry.

"They carry on under the curtain of legislation and are getting away with it. It is a crazy situation."

But the city council points out it is not breaking any rules.

A spokesman explained: "Yes, some Uber drivers operate in Canterbury district.

"Uber is a lawful business operating in a lawful way and if any changes to how Uber operates was to be brought in, this would have to be on a national level."

In Dartford, Uber cars are frequently spotted. The council explaining: "Uber can still use their London licence to collect and drop off pre-booked fares within the area.

"They cannot be hailed in the street as they are private hire and only Dartford licensed Hackney Carriages can be hailed or ply for hire within the borough. If they pick up directly off the street without a booking, we would look to prosecute for illegal working.

"Once an Uber driver has completed their fare they should return to their licensed area, however they can and do park in legal car parks over which we have no jurisdiction.

"Any complaints regarding Uber or other drivers licensed by other authorities would be directed to the authority that licenses them, in London's case TfL, to deal with as we have not got enforcement powers over drivers we do not licence.

"Uber has not applied to be licensed by Dartford and if it did we would have to judge it under our policy to ascertain if they were fit and proper, if the refusal to renew the London licence is upheld, following an appeal, we would use this and any other information available to support any decision we make."

Responding, a spokesman for Uber said: "We don't have a number to hand of licensed drivers who are picking up or dropping off in Kent.

"The recent decision taken by Transport for London only applies to Uber in the capital and does not impact Uber's licence in any other city. Across the UK, millions of people use our app to get from A to B and thousands of licensed drivers rely on Uber to make a living.

"We plan to appeal the decision in London and can continue operating while we await the outcome of our appeal.

"People use Uber to travel across councils and it's common industry practice for drivers licensed in one to carry out trips in another.

"They can do this as long as they are pre-booked and dispatched from the operator's licence they are registered to. It's not a loophole - its actually something the law was changed to allow.

"As for the councils, Uber only partners with licensed private hire drivers and, while councils can have different policies, the fundamentals are the same. All private hire drivers in the UK have to go through an enhanced DBS background check, the same background check which black cab drivers go through. It is then up to the licensing authority to decide if they are fit to hold a private hire licence. In many cases Uber's national standards go further than many local requirements."

Founded in 2009, Uber now operates out of 633 cities worldwide, with its headquarters in San Francisco, California.

Its use of smartphone technology and a network of drivers using their own cars has proved a successful formula. At least so far.

LICENCE: Cabs with a TfL licence are often seen on the county's streets

■ **What do you think? Do you use Uber? Do you think Uber should look to extend its network further into Kent? Or are you a cab driver in Kent who has seen their trade hit by the arrival of the firm? Share your views and join the debate. Email us at editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or write to: The Editor, KoS, Room G46, The Panorama, Park Street, Ashford TN24 8EX. We'll print some of the best on our letters' page.**

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Football ace looks to hit the target in TV show

Danny Grant will be seen trying to impress Lord Sugar this week as BBC One's The Apprentice makes a return

SHOW: Lord Sugar and this year's line-up of candidates ahead of Wednesday's debut of the latest series of hit BBC One TV show The Apprentice. Each candidate will be hoping to impress the businessman during a range of tasks in pursuit of a £250,000 joint venue investment in their business idea Picture: Jim Marks/BBC

By Luke May
Luke.May@archant.co.uk

A NON-league footballer who gave up a jet-setting job to see more of his son will appear on TV next week as The Apprentice returns to our screens.

The popular BBC One show, which features businessman Alan Sugar whittling down contestants until he finds one candidate to go into business with, will feature 32-year-old Danny Grant, who signed for Southern Counties East League Premier Division side Chatham earlier this season.

And while contractually obliged not to reveal anything about how he gets on in the show, he admits the first episode is "explosive" as he and the other hopefuls vie for the £250,000 investment from Lord Sugar.

Mr Grant, who lives in Rochester and runs an online cosmetics company, has certainly enjoyed a jet-set lifestyle.

He told KoS this week: "I spent 10 years travelling, building helicopters and Formula One cars for the likes of Ferrari and McLaren.

"It was great for a while, but I have a 12-year-old son in Maidstone and he would always say how he missed me, so I realised I had to come back.

"After a while the lifestyle begins to take its toll, you're basically living out of a suitcase, so I moved back, settled down and in 2014 I set up my own business.

"It started off just selling things like iPhone parts, but now I'm selling activated carbon, the black powder that everyone is using as a teeth whitener, and it's been quite successful."

Last year, Sevenoaks' JD O'Brien tried - but ultimately failed - to win the TV business contest.

Billed as the job interview from hell, The Apprentice pits 18 candidates against one another in a series of business tasks with at least one candidate sent packing at the end of each show.

Famously, the US version of the show was once fronted by Donald Trump - prior to his decision to run for the White House.

The UK version launched in 2005 with the winners picking up a full-time six-figure job within Lord Sugar's empire.

But in 2011 that changed and now candidates fight for the £250,000 investment into a business they will run as a 50/50 joint venture with the businessman.

Each candidate has a business idea, submitted before the contests begin, to Lord Sugar.

Adds Mr Grant: "I've always had these little ideas for start-ups, that's why I started my own business when I came back to Kent.

"If the activated carbon keeps selling well I want to use that profit to create water filtration systems that fit into kitchen taps, and then use that money to provide water filters in Third World countries.

"I've been watching the show from day one, all of my family and friends have said that I'd be really good at it, this year I just thought, why not apply?

"I didn't expect to get through to the auditions, let alone the actual show. Before you even get on to the show it's such a stress with meetings and applications.

"The first episode we were all making and selling burgers; it's pretty explosive with all of the contestants trying to make a good first impression."

Pitching an ethical cosmetics company to Lord Sugar, the former Rochester Math student returned to living out of a suitcase when he joined the other contestants in living together in a luxury house in Chelsea when filming began back in the spring.

"It was quite a change of scenery from Rochester," says Mr Grant, "Hopefully I'll be able to afford a house around there some day.

"Because I used to travel, I think I coped quite well living in the house, whereas some of the others maybe got a bit homesick. I'm quite a jovial guy, so I think that will come across in the house and in the challenges.

"I went there as myself and I went in to win.

"When people watch, I hope it's the most accurate version of me it can be on the screen."

Viewers have already had a flavour of the self-proclaimed "cheeky chappy", after a video surfaced of him rapping the Fresh Prince of Bel Air theme, claiming he's often told he looks like Will Smith, the star of the popular 1990s sitcom, "because of the ears".

He said: "I remember it being filmed during the auditions, at that point I never thought I'd get through; there are thousands of entrants and I wanted to give off as much of my personality as possible.

"It had been a long day of auditioning, but I'm quite a playful person and I wanted to show that."

The "massive fan" of the show added: "Going into it, I had a lot of respect for all of the previous candidates, of course you remember the winners and are inspired by them, but it's such a stressful process, even the candidates you can't normally remember have done really well to get there.

"I can't wait to watch it, I really think it's going to be the best series yet."

■ **The new series of The Apprentice starts at 9pm on Wednesday, October 4.**

STAR: The Apprentice series 13 contestant: Danny Grant - (C) Freemantle Media.

COUNTY LINKS TO THE APPRENTICE

KENT has featured heavily on The Apprentice over the years, with contestants often spotted in the county trying to complete their latest task.

TV cameras have followed the teams in action in Margate, Brands Hatch, Canterbury, Whitstable, Ramsgate, Dover, Ashford and Sandwich.

However, even those places involved in the filming are sworn to secrecy, so any Kent locations this year will not be revealed until it hits our screens.

Previous contestants from the county have had mixed fortunes.

Stella English was the most successful, winning the competition in 2010. Ms English, who lives in Whitstable, ended up quitting her £100,000 job and ended up taking out a constructive dismissal case against Lord Sugar - a case she ultimately lost.

Maria O'Connor, who ran a restaurant in Sandwich, was the second to be 'fired' in 2012. Canterbury's Vincent Disneur was booted out in episode five in 2011 and West Malling lawyer Felipe Alviar-Baquero came a cropper in 2014.

A b n b dust at Priestfield

Paul Scally is once again on the hunt for a new manager as Ady Pennock quits following a difficult start to the season

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

GILLINGHAM are once again on the look out for a new boss, after the club saw its fifth manager in a little over five years depart.

Speculation over the future of Ady Pennock had been growing following a disappointing start to the season which had seen the Gills struggle at the wrong end of the League One table.

A rare victory - the only one of the season so far - against Charlton Athletic two weeks ago bought Pennock a little time, but after his side were thumped 3-0 away at Rochdale last weekend, the writing was on the wall.

At a meeting at Priestfield on Monday morning, it was agreed he would leave by mutual consent, along with his assistant coach Jamie Day.

Both Mr Pennock and Mr Day joined the club in management roles in January after the club sacked Justin Edinburgh.

Explained club chairman Paul Scally: "Following Saturday's 3-0 defeat at Rochdale I spoke to both Ady Pennock and Jamie Day on Monday morning and, after some frank discussion, it was mutually agreed to terminate their contracts with immediate effect.

"I would like to thank them both for their tremendous hard work and I'm extremely disappointed that their hard work didn't result in a more positive outcome. Ady, without doubt, deserved his chance to run the team and I'm just sorry it didn't work out for him.

"As is always in these cases the search will now begin for a new manager.

"In the interim, director of football Peter Taylor will oversee the coaching and the running of the next few games alongside Steve Lovell, Mark Patterson and goalkeeping coach Glen Johnson."

It was that team which oversaw the first team in a goalless home league fixture against Scunthorpe on Tuesday night and who travelled with the team this weekend for Saturday's tough away clash at Blackburn Rovers.

It was a sad end to Pennock's reign at the club. As a player, the central defender had made more than 165 appearances for the Gills between 1996 and 2003 and he became a firm fan favourite. He was skipper in 2000 when the club - also then managed by Peter Taylor - triumphed in the play-off final to secure a place in the Championship.

Now, however, Mr Scally is once more on the hunt for a replacement - although he has appeared to have ruled out Nobby Solano, who the bookmakers had installed as favourite for the job.

WHO'S FAVOURITE TO BE THE NEXT BOSS?

- Shaun Derry 10/11
- Nolberto Solano 5/2
- Peter Taylor 3/1
- Jay Saunders 9/1
- Chris Powell 10/1
- Micky Adams 20/1
- Martin Allen 20/1
- Chris Kinnear 22/1
- Ian Hendon 22/1
- Neil Ardley 22/1
- Andy Hessenthaler 25/1
- Gianfranco Zola 25/1
- Nigel Adkins 25/1
- Danny Cowley 25/1

Odds courtesy of SkyBet

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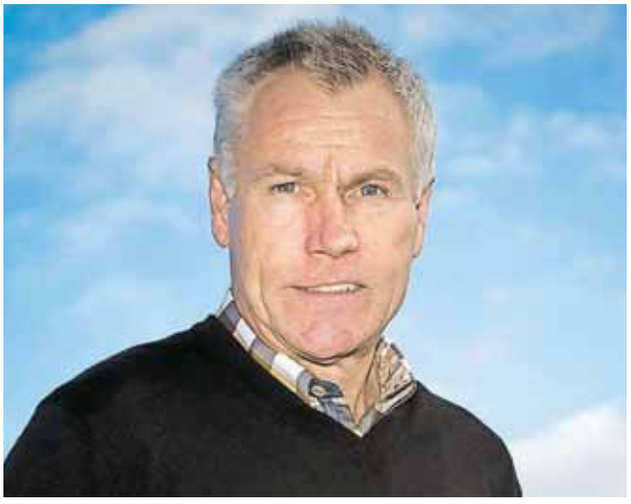

OFF: Ady Pennock, left, quit on Monday as director of football Peter Taylor takes temporary control. Right, chairman Paul Scally. Pictures: ADY KERRY

Speaking of the former Peru international and Newcastle United ace, Mr Scally said he was "not one of the people on my list".

By the end of the week, the favourite to take over at the Medway club was Shaun Derry.

The 39-year-old is currently manager at League Two side Cambridge United and is highly regarded in the lower leagues, most recently being linked with a vacancy at Chesterfield.

But for Paul Scally, the hunt is not something he relishes.

He explained: "It's a tedious, difficult and thankless task finding a new management team because we hope everyone we employ will do better, but there are no guarantees. "We could bring in Jose Mourinho and it might not work out for him.

"As always, there are numerous applictions - lots of names put to us from home and abroad. And many are people we don't know much about but come from credible sources."

And the chairman claimed the decision may hang on any major new investors coming into the club and their vision for the team.

He says he has been involved in talks with money men looking at a possible takeover or acquiring a major stake in the club over recent months and remains confident a deal will be struck.

Mr Scally explained: "I think it is linked with me talking to some fairly significant investors at the moment for a very different future for the club. I have to take into account what the investors might be considering so we may be looking for a short term fix until December or the end of the season or we give them a two-year deal.

"Whoever takes on now will be on the basis of the squad we have and possible additions in January."

GILLINGHAM'S RECENT MANAGERS & THEIR FORM

Ady Pennock (Jan 2017-Sept 2017)
Played 32, wins 6, draws 11, defeats 15

Justin Edinburgh (Feb 2015-Jan 2017)
Played 102, wins 40, draws 26, defeats 36

Andy Hessenthaler/Steve Lovell/Darren Hare/Mark Patterson (caretakers) (Dec 2014-Feb 2015)
Played 8, wins 3, draws 2, defeats 3

Peter Taylor (Oct 2013-Dec 2014)
Played 67, wins 23, draws 14, defeats 30

Martin Allen (July 2012-Oct 2013)
Played 64, wins 27, draws 17, defeats 20

Andy Hessenthaler (May 2010-May 2012)
Played 101, wins 39, draws 29, defeats 33

MARSHALL & CLARKE

GREAT MONGEHAM Guide Price: £795,000

Lovely characterful period farm house (listed Grate 11). Hall, drawing room, kit/breakfast rm, study, dining room, utility rm, study, dining rm, utility rm, larder, 5/6 beds, dressing rm/bed 4, 3 bathrms, 3 cloaks, walled gdn, 2 gdn rms, Chinese style pavilion, parking, garage.

WALMER/KINGSDOWN Guide Price: £895,000

One of just five houses tucked away, lovely channel views to front & farmland to rear. Cons/entrance lobby, 25'6 lounge/dining rm, kit/breakfst rm, study/bed 5, 4 dbl beds 3 with seaviews, ensuite, bathrm, gdn approx. ½ acre, circular driveway/parking, det gge. EPC TBC.

ST MARGARETS BAY Guide Price: £850,000

An interesting opportunity to acquire a substantial detached house, hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, snug/study, sitting room, box room, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, 2 large balcony's, driveway/parking, gardens, EPC:D

ST MARGARET'S BAY Guide Price: £695,000

Substantial detached character house, views over the Foreland Valley. 5 beds. sitting/dining rm. kitchen/breakfast rm. Sauna, wet rm. cloak room. & bathroom. Utility rm. cellar. Parking for 2-3 vehicles, garden. EPC: F

KINGSDOWN Guide Price: £650,000

A well presented spacious detached family home, up to 5 beds, Hall, lounge, sitting/bed 5, dining rm, study/bed 4, kitchen, utility, downstairs bathrm, annexe potential, 3 double beds, ensuite bath, shower room, 2 parking areas, garage, garden. EPC D

RINGWOULD Guide Price: £395,000

Beautifully presented semi detached character Victorian house. Hall, sitting rm, kit, cons/breakfast rm, cloaks, utility,2 beds, en-suite bathrm, shower rm, parking space for 1 vehicle, gardens, summerhouse, EPC C

ST MARGARETS AT CLIFFE Guide Price: £419,995

An interesting semi-detached period house, sympathetically updated and extended to make a lovely character house: 3 receptions rooms, kitchen, utility room, cloak, 3 beds, en-suite, bathroom, attic room, garden, parking,2/3 cars, EPC: D

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Rare Bowie single set to sell for thousands

A seven-inch single by the star, released when he was just 17, is set to go under the hammer at a Folkestone auction house later this month

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A RARE record released by David Bowie when he was just 17 is set to go under the hammer later this month with expectations it could sell for thousands of pounds.

The seven-inch vinyl pressing of Liza Jane was first released back in June 1964.

Still living in Kent at the time, the record was released under his real name of Davie Jones and failed miserably to have any impact on the chart.

In fact Liza Jane by Davie Jones and the King Bees sold so badly the group were subsequently dropped from the record label, Vocalion Pop.

But after the young performer changed his name to Bowie his fortunes transformed and he elevated himself from the humble beginnings of life growing up in Beckenham to global superstardom.

And as a consequence of his fame, fans have since clamored for anything related to the star. That value has only increased since his death in January 2016.

Now the rare vinyl - which is a demonstration-only version of the single - is to be sold via a Folkestone auction house with even experts admitting they have little idea just how much it will sell for.

Going up with an estimate of between £500-£1,000 experts suggest it could eventually sell for many times that.

Demonstration-only records were limited run pre-release copies of the single sent to radio stations and reviewers in a bid to whip up excitement ahead of its official release.

Robin Newcombe is a general valuer at Grand Auctions in Folkestone which is selling the disc.

He explained: "We held a general valuation day and a woman came in with the record. She had it in her possession for years. She knew Davie Jones was actually David Bowie but didn't know much more about it than that.

"When I first saw it I knew it was potentially valuable and having done some additional research I realise it is likely to be one of very few remaining copies out there."

According to David Bowie's own website, DavidBowie.com, two similiar versions of the record - both demonstration discs - were sold through online auction site eBay in 2014 for £2,150 each.

But with interest in the late star never higher, that price could be dwarfed.

Adds Mr Newcombe: "On the record collecting website Discogs there is only one copy for sale and that is valued at around £4,000. The problem is that it is so rare we simply don't know what price it will sell for."

The record itself is said to be in a 'fair' to 'good' condition - which means it shows signs of wear and tear. Prior to sale it will be professionally cleaned, with the auction house confident it will be able to be played without skipping.

However, for collectors the value lies in its rarity rather than the ability to hear the track.

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CHANGES: The single, right, was one sent out for reviews and to radio stations ahead of the official release back in 1964.

POSTCARD SALE DELAYED

A POSTCARD which claims to have been sent by infamous Victorian killer Jack the Ripper, is set to go under the hammer at an auction in Folkestone in December - two months later than originally planned.

The item had been due to be sold by Folkestone's Grand Auctions on October 9 but the sale will now take place in December while "a few details" are ironed out.

The postcard was received at Ealing Police Station on October 29, 1888 from someone claiming to be responsible for the brutal murder of at least five women in the slums of the East End.

Never found, the killer spread panic in the capital with his horrific murders which involved cutting the throats of women and then brutally mutiliating them.

Ever since then, a whole industry has grown up around just who was the guilty man.

It was one of a number of notes sent to police claiming responsibility during the long-running manhunt.

It contains a threat to kill two women and was sent on a significant date.

Mary Kelly, one of the five of his confirmed victims, was murdered less than two weeks later.

John was an officer with the Metropolitan Police.

He was given the item as a memento after the Ripper file was closed and he left the force in 1966. He later became a publican in Dover.

The postcard has an estimate of £1,500-£2,500 although the auction house says it expects it to sell for much more.

Explains Mr Newcombe: "For collectors it will be appeal of simply owning such a rare piece rather than the condition of the record itself.

"It is almost impossible to ascertain how many copies of the record would have been printed. It could be as low as 20 or 100. The one thing we do know is that items like this rarely come on to the market and we're expecting a great deal of interest."

Born in Brixton in 1947, David Bowie's parents moved to Beckenham in 1953 where they remained for the next 12 years.

After forming his first band at the age of 15, the Konrads, he announced he was leaving Bromley Technical College to become a pop star.

He had a short-lived career with the King Bees before joining Maidstone group the Manish Boys.

However, it was not until 1969 and his hit Space Oddity that he made the leap into mainstream fame and never looked back.

■ The sale takes place on October 9. The item is expected to attract global attention as it will be sold via the online site, www.thesaleroom.com.

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Attractions set for Halloween scares

There are plenty of terrifyingly fun things to do later this month in pursuit of things that go bump in the night

HALLOWEEN is just around the corner and there are plenty of ways to get your scares in Thanet with at least two award-winning attractions returning again this year.

The annual scare fest has turned into big business with a number of venues pushing the boat out to lure in the crowds.

One of the county's highest profile events will be Dreamland's transformation into Screamland.

Starting over the weekend of October 20-21 and then on October 26, 27, 28 and 31, it sees the theme park take on a darker hue for the season of frights.

A spokesman for the park explains: "Screamland is now Kent's biggest scare festival as the park takes on a darker identity with a fully immersive and interactive scare experience.

PARK: Dreamland will once again become Screamland

"Many of our rides are themed and this year we will also be hosting live music and DJs on the Scenic Stage making full use of the newly landscaped park.

"There is also unlimited ride access plus all the on park entertainment and music. There are also six specially designed scare mazes providing a few jumps.

"Our production team has spent a lot of time researching and testing different things out, travelling far and wide to put as many ideas in the pot as possible.

"We carefully recruit the best scare actors in the business and timing is a crucial factor in ensuring the scare is hitting the full quota of people at the right time. There is also plenty of variety so some people are afraid of clowns, others like a strong believable narrative and others simply may not like the dark. It's important to play to a wide-range of what is thought of as scary so that we can reach a broad audience.

"It also has to be great value for money. Screamland has been a huge success over the last two years and we're incredibly confident in the position that we're in for 2017."

HOUSE: From tranquil to terror as Quex goes Quextreme

Just down the road in Birchington is Quex Park.

The normally sedate venue will once again become Quextreme following a successful debut last year.

It will have a host of attractions for people to try out when it opens from October 27-29.

And if they all sound a little too extreme, well for the younger ones you can take part in a Halloween trail through the streets of Broadstairs. Open to those aged between 2 and 11, tickets need to be purchased in advance for £2 per child as numbers are limited.

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WICKED

Why there's much more to isle than just food festival

Thousands will flock to the Broadstairs Food Festival this weekend, but if you're looking for a great place to eat or drink then Thanet has plenty of options for you to enjoy

RAMSGATE: You'll be spoilt for choice in the seaside town

IF there is one thing Thanet is not short on, it is surely the sheer quantity of food and drink outlets which lurk upon the isle.

From gourmet, award-winning, restaurants, to classic fish and chip shops, from seafood stalls to cocktail bars or swanky hotel venues, there is truly something for everyone, in all the towns.

As if to underline how seriously it takes its food, this weekend some 50,000 people are set to flock to the Broadstairs Food Festival - an annual smorgasbord of the very best locally produced food and drink.

And it's little wonder the area has gained such a reputation. Surrounded by agricultural fields and seas rich in fish, the area has become synonymous with choice and variety.

Margate has seen a boom in the number of restaurants and bars springing up in recent years which mirror its revival. From roof-top bars overlooking Dreamland, to cosy cocktail bars, to restaurants serving up the best of British or outlets serving up treats inspired by food from around the world, it's not short on choice.

Ramsgate is enjoying a boom too, with the town offering a range of acclaimed restaurants. Just take a stroll around the marina and you'll be spoilt for choice, with everything from French, Italian, Greek to award-winning fish and chip bars.

And, of course, Broadstairs has long been known for the place to go for anything from a classic ice cream parlour to acclaimed gourmet restaurants, with its pubs also serving up plenty of treats or even the opportunity to enjoy a seafood spread overlooking the bay.

But while the main towns may hog the limelight, there are plenty of other places in the surrounding villages too. From the seaside pub and restaurants in Botany Bay, Minnis Bay and Pegwell Bay to the countryside retreat of the likes of the Corner House in Minster or The Parlour in Birchington, there's plenty of options to choose from.

So if you're taking a trip to the Broadstairs Food Festival this weekend, then make sure you save some of your appetite for a visit to one of Thanet's numerous places to wine, dine and enjoy yourself.

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STAR: Want to feel old? Then simply consider that Nik Kershaw turns 60 next year. Yes, 60. Seems like he first emerged just yesterday doesn't it?

It's no riddle why 80's star Nik is still strumming success

Chris Britcher speaks to Nik Kershaw ahead of his show in Margate tonight

BIG hair? Tick. Natty line in shoulder pads? Tick. String of memorable chart hits? Tick.

Yes, Nik Kershaw was a quintessential star of the 1980s, a talented singer songwriter who strummed his way up the charts and will forever be remembered for the likes of 1984's Wouldn't It Be Good? and the Cold War inspired I Won't Let The Sun Go Down On Me - all from the million-selling debut album Human Racing.

He wasn't as exciting as, say, the Frankie Goes To Hollywoods of this world, or as colourful as Culture Club, but he was a purveyor of finely crafted songs which have not only passed the test of time, but continue to adorn any self-respecting Eighties compilation.

He performed at Live Aid in 1985 and his album The Riddle delivered more success. But his time as a solo star was soon in decline and he went on to underline his songwriting credentials by penning the likes of Chesney Hawkes' monster hit I Am The One And Only.

Now 59, he's back on the road again, and tonight (Sunday) performs at Margate's Theatre Royal for a show combining the hits from his heyday and tales from life in the maelstrom of the Eighties pop hey-day. But does he not ever tire of playing those hits?

"I did go through a stage, especially when I was asked to do some revival shows and festivals, of having a belief the old songs stop people listening to the new stuff," he explains to KoS. "At the beginning of the noughties it was a frustration, but you can use the old stuff to usher in the new stuff. To treat it as an asset rather than a weight around your neck.

"You start having some respect for those songs. And to be still be able to stand on a festival stage in front of 25,000 people and have everyone singing your songs back at you - that's amazing."

He's refreshingly down to earth, even admitting that he still gets stage fright every time he's about to go on stage. And he takes plenty of comfort in the seemingly never-ending Eighties revival.

"I bump into the acts from back in the day more often at these festivals than I did at the time as we were all so busy. I've formed some good friendships through them as you've all been through the same things. We're all just people getting on with it. You rarely find any divas at these things as we've all had a good kicking on the way down and we're just delighted to still be here."

Among those friends are Go West with whom he will be embarking on a UK tour next year which also includes Cutting Crew - a three-for-the-price-of-one Eighties night out which calls into Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall.

It's a town he's familiar with from days out as a child.

He explains: "I used to come to the county a lot. My grandparents lived in Maidstone so when as a child we had to get from Ipswich to Maidstone back when there was no Dartford Crossing so through all the towns and across the Blackwall Tunnel. Took pretty much all day to get there. We used to go to Folkestone and Hastings for day trips."

Nik Kershaw performs tonight, Sunday, at Margate's Theatre Royal. Some tickets are still available.

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ATTRACTIVE lady, 45yrs, loves animals, music, socialising. If you have similar interests then call or text me. Lets meet up and spend time together. Looks unimportant, must have GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428811**

AISHA, petite Asian lady, just 23yrs, living at home but hoping to meet a sophisticated, well travelled man to teach me the ways of the world. Pls be discreet as my parents are very strict. **Text only. Box : 4003844**

TAKE a chance on me. Beryl, honest black lady. Seeking a gent 50-75 ish. who will treat me with respect. I will be respectful to you, mutual fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428809**

TABITHA, attractive well groomed lady, 32yrs, own house, good job, hoping for some naught text chat with older gent. **Text Only. Box: 4028177**

MERRY widow, 64yrs, lonely and kind. Hoping to meet a kind gent, please call, you won't be sorry, I'm good company and will care for you. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428805**

STEPHANIE, super sexy black mamma, 55yrs young with curves in all the right places. Call me and you wont be sorry, we can have the time of our lives. **Text Only. Box: 4060220**

MICHELLE, 44yrs, attractive lady, great company, hoping to meet mature gent 50+ for loving relationship. ACA/Text answered. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428803**

CANDIDA, 52yrs, married lady, very well educated with good looks and dress sense. Unappreciated by older husband and hoping for some fun with discreet chap. **Text Only. Box: 4010802**

IF you want to meet a mature busty blonde lady then look no further. Call me, I'm interested in meeting a man who wants a physical relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428799**

CHLOE, very attractive girl, 32yrs, long hair and lovely teeth, I like to take care of myself. I want a man who will pamper me. In return you wont be disappointed as I am super sexy. **Text Only. Box: 4070336**

SUSAN, articulate interesting lady, 60yrs, loves countryside and music. Hoping to meet a genuine man of any age. All calls and texts answered. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428797**

PIPPA, recently divorced lady, 46yrs, hoping to get back into dating and have some fun with a guy any age. Must be a laugh and willing to have a go at most things. **Text Only. Box: 4101590**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399**

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MARIA, young 54yr old, 5ft 8ins, medium build, blonde hair/brown eyes, likes swimming, walking, pubs and dining out, WLTM male 40-60 with GSOH who is honest, kind and reliable. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428609**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673**

HEATHER, 54yrs, slim brunette with petite figure, loves keep fit. Seeks chap for nights out, fun times, must be honest and kind. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428491**

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VICTORIA, 46yrs, bubbly outgoing nurse, petite pretty brunette. WLTM N/S man, any age, must have GSOH and be kind. ACA. Or text. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428489**

GENUINE lady 50yrs, independent, seeks genuine man, call to hear more about me pls. ACA/text answered. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428487**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3022 Box 421375**

ANGELA, attractive 66yr old free minded and spirited lady. Genuine with varied interests seeks gent 65+. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428485**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3006 Box 422365**

ANNETTA, 40yrs old seeks caring older gent 55+, you must be nice and enjoy my company. ACA/Text answered. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428483**

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3034 Box 425979**

TERESA, friendly lady with GSOH, curvy build and attractive looks, 50 something, seeking romantic male 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428383**

JOY, mid 50s independent lady, brunette, loves dining out, seeking gent of any age. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428373**

HARRIETT 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. **Tel: 0906 515 3030 Box 426205**

ARE you a gent with GSOH 60-70 and looking for some fun then call me, Leah, I'm 57yrs, slim, attractive and looking for fun. ACA. Or text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428381**

CARMEL, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. **Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 426851**

SUE, attractive, nice curves, young outlook, looking for a soul mate, someone interested in car boot sales, going down the beach, walking, social drinks, WLTM genuine man up to around 70 years. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428187**

Men Seeking

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MALE, modern dresser, likes driving to the coast and different places, looking for someone 60-70, possibly who can drive same as me, just to go out and enjoy life and have a laugh. It would be nice to have someone on my arm and to bring flowers to. Call me and let's have a chat. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428771**

RICHARD, 55, looking for lady for outings, meals out, pubs etc. New to area and lonely. East Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428631**

NICE looking male, 55, seeks mature female for fun, outings and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334975**

MALE, 42, married and bored, looking for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428599**

SMART Thanet male, 70, dark hair, brown eyes, 5ft5, OHOC, likes travel, countryside, the sea, walking, looking for an attractive local lady, for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428303**

MALE, 55, WLTM a lady, 60-70, for discreet adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428039**

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JANE, 52yrs genuine blue eyed blonde lady WLTM romantic gent for potential relationship. ACA/Text answered so please reply. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428379**

CAROLINE, 42yrs, well educated, sophisticated "some call me posh" married lady, looking for no strings midweek liaisons. **Tel: 0906 515 3026 Box 427533**

LINDA, 48yrs, young looking blonde lady, slim and attractive. Hoping to meet new men friends, call and let's see what happens. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428377**

MARGARET, attractive blonde widow, living alone and hoping to find a nice gentleman soulmate. I have lots to offer so please call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428375**

ATTRACTIVE widow, loves life, 60s music, walking and fun. Hoping to meet a similar minded gent 60-80 for life's adventures. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428371**

ATTRACTIVE male, dark hair, brown eyes, 5ft5, solvent, own bungalow and car, likes travel, countryside, seaside, walking, looking for attractive local lady for LTR. Thanet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428127**

GENUINE retired, mature widower, honest, kind and considerate, enjoys most things, walking, countryside, seaside, seeking a lady for LTR, just wanting to share my life with somebody special. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428023**

SOLVENT male, older but young at heart, looking for a young lady to wine and dine and spoil and pamper and in turn to pamper me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427443**

SINGLE dad of two, WLTM a single mum, for a proper relationship. Please get in contact I look forward to hearing from you. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427999**

WELL off man, wanting a young lady for spoiling. I am a sugar daddy looking for a sugar baby. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427441**

JAMES, 43, genuine, witty, positive, kind and caring, loves travel, socialising, eating out and lots and lots of laughs with the right person, looking for genuine, friendly lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428019**

MALE 60, 6ft, blue eyes, broad shoulders, size 11 shoes, a real handful! Seeks a fit mature busty woman for fun times. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6001755**

THANET male, retired, 5ft5, dark hair, smart, OHOC, likes walks, travel in motorhome, looking for a single, attractive lady with similar interests in Thanet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427557**

TALL, lively old boy, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks tactile lady for company and jolly jaunts. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425021**

MALE, 58, slim build, 5ft9, brown eyes, hard working, enjoys fishing and socialising, looking for no stings attached fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427173**

HI ladies, looking for either NSA fun or LTR. I am single/work/live in own house. **Text only. Mailbox: 4509325**

LOCAL 70 year old young male, now single, nice appearance and dresser, looking for fun and friendship with a lady, 55-70, possible holidays. Can travel. Please ring. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426897**

LIVELY mature gent, OHAC, near sea in Folkestone, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks lady companion/lover, 58-68 yo. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422621**

CARING, sociable male, 72, N/S, likes all types of music, walking, meals out, looking for a lady for friendship at first. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426865**

MALE divorced, 6ft, well built, seeking fun time girl for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412717**

HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015**

50YR old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641**

JERRY, 66, brown hair, brown eyes, recently widowed, love to walk my dog, WLTM compatible lady for companionship and to see where things go. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426387**

LOCAL man, seeks lady for friendship possibly more, for romantic dates and good times together, hope to hear from you. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426195**

SIX foot guy, mature, looking for someone special to spend some quality time with. Please leave me a message I would love to hear from you! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420163**

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KENT man, retired engineer, solvent, enjoys holidays, meals out, good conversation, WLTM a slim lady, 60-70, with a GSOH, to share these times and hopefully become friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426887**

RETIRED, smart, 68 year old, 5ft5, I enjoy eating out, walking, holidays and golf, WLTM a slim, attractive lady, 60-68, for a loving, tender relationship, to enjoy these times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421853**

GUY, 50, 6ft tall, calm and kind, good company, seeking lovely lady for good times and fun and loving. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425369**

HANDSOME male, mid 40s, dark hair, hazel eyes, wishes to meet appropriate female for fun, friendship and perhaps more, please get in touch if interested. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422587**

MALE, 6ft, brown hair and blue eyes, warm and understanding, likes dining out and cosy nights in, lots of fun, friendship and holidays. Looking for a lady over 48. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426057**

CARING sociable, GSOH, slim, attractive, married gent, 67, feels discarded and lonely, seeks likewise lady 60+ for trips out, dining etc, **Text only. Mailbox: 5082918**

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MALE, 50s, likes to cross dress, looking for same for friendship and fun. Has to be discreet. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 4623598**

JOHN, young at heart 65, bi male, looking for casual fun with likeminded male. Maidstone Kent area. Must be discreet. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 5657306**

GAY guy, medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267**

EASY going guy, 68, likes walks, books, seeks N/S guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411413**

ROB, bi-curious male, 55, seeks likeminded male, crossdresser/TV. Must be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426287**

MALE, 40s, seeking gym buddy to attend DW gym in the early evenings, similar age. Margate. **Text only. Mailbox: 5779191**

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Spence set to shine as stars prepare for Cinderella's return

By Luke May

luke.may@archant.co.uk

CAST members from this year's Dartford pantomime officially launched the countdown to the show this week with more than 30,000 people expected to watch the box office hit during its run this year.

Cinderella starts at the theatre on December 9 and runs until New Year's Eve.

It features Pineapple Studios star Louie Spence as Dandini and former EastEnders and Coronation Street regular Michelle Collins as the Wicked Stepmother. Jayne Wisener, perhaps best known for her role in The Inbetweeners, is Cinderella, while Phil Butler plays Buttons.

And dancer and choreographer Spence says he cannot wait to get started.

He told KoS: "Cinderella will be my first time performing at the Orchard, but I know the theatre well and can't wait to get started there. I've seen lots of my friends appear there in various musicals and shows, so it's about time it's my turn.

" I'm really excited to be back in my Dandini tights this year, I did the same role for our producers Qdos Entertainment last year in High Wycombe but this is my first time working with Michelle Collins although I've met her many times.

"She's a lot of fun, really good on stage and she's going to make a brilliant Wicked Stepmother."

He's certainly no stranger to the world of pantomime and is looking forward to the show's demanding festive run.

He adds: "Over the years I've done lots of different pantos including Peter Pan and Jack and the Beanstalk, but I think Cinderella is my favourite as who doesn't want to find a Prince Charming and get a fabulous pair of heels into the bargain? It's a great panto title and has something for everything, and this year's Dartford panto is going to be bigger than ever.

"Why should people come to see Dartford's panto over others? Because it's got me in it! Seriously though, the cast we've got assembled is fantastic and it's going to be full of music and dancing and a lot of laughs and apparently it's already selling faster than any previous pantomime before so everyone should book now or they'll be missing out."

CAST: The stars of this year's Orchard Theatre pantomime. Tickets for all shows are on sale now.

Dame Vera tribute show

LORRIE Brown honours 'Forces Sweetheart' Dame Vera Lynn with a performance at The Astor Theatre in Deal on October 26. Also on the bill will be a George Formby tribute artist. Show starts at 2.30pm.

Author in conversation

LOUISE Doughty, author of the bestselling thrillers Apple Tree Yard and Black Water, will be in conversation with crime writer Angela Clarke at Sevenoaks Bookshop on November 2.

The event starts at 7.30pm with tickets, which include refreshaments, available now priced £7.50.

Beth Hart books a date

GRAMMY-nominated singer Beth Hart will play Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall on April 19 - just ahead of a sold-out show at London's Royal Albert Hall.

It forms part of a 14-date UK and Irish tour.

Dance for charity night

A CHARITY dance evening takes place at the Cygnets Leisure Centre in Northfleet next Saturday.

Featuring ballroom, Latin and sequence dancing, funds from the event will go towards the Ellenor hospice and the After Breast Cancer charity. It runs from 8-11pm, tickets £8.50.

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Aaronovitch signing books

BEST-SELLING author Ben Aaronovitch is to visit Waterstones at Bluewater on October 14. He will be there at 12.30 to sign copies of his latest novella The Furthest Station, in the PC Peter Grant series.

Newton's festival date

SINGER-songwriter Newton Faulkner performs at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury as part of the city's festival on October 18.

Now shorn of his dreadlocks, the performer is promoting his sixth album, Hit the Ground Running.

Tickets for the performance are on sale now.

Return of The Graduate

DUSTIN Hoffman classic The Graduate will have its 50th anniversary celebrated at the Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells later this month with a special showing of the film on October 22.

Tickets for London's NYE

TICKETS for London's New Year's Eve fireworks spectacular are now on sale.

Costing £10 each, more than 100,000 are expected to flock to the capital for the annual knees-up.

The first batch went on sale of Friday - to book see www.london.gov.uk/nye.

Game of Thrones stars set for special festival?

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PLANS are under way to stage a Game of Thrones festival in Kent next year - with hopes of a number of celebrity guests joining in the fun.

Fans of the hit HBO show are set to swell the crowds of an event - dubbed Throne Fest - which could take place in Herne Bay.

The organisers said it will not be a purely Games of Thrones event, but a reflection of medieval times, but will certainly be learning heavily towards the cult hack and slash show.

Gerald McCarthy from the BayPromoTeam told us: "The Throne Fest is an idea we are exploring for 2018, although do note that this would not be a BayPromoTeam event, but an event some of the team plan on staging independently.

"We would like to bring the sights and sounds of medieval England to Herne Bay with a strong Game of Thrones influence running throughout.

"Ideas for the event include bringing some of the actors from the series to the event, recreating a full jousting tournament in which competing knights will take on the famous fictional houses of Stark versus Lannister from the series, battle re-enactments, replica costumes from the series would be on display, and of course super-fans will be dressing and posing as their favourite characters from the series.

"The famous Iron Throne would be brought in for people to sit on, and other props and even a dragon would form part of the day along with activities relevant from the era.

"These types of popular series celebrations have been going on for a few years now - a recent Con of Thrones took place in America recently and was received well.

"Very early planning at the moment, however with the series being arguably one of the most popular ever made, something fans will definitely not want to miss. This would be a fan-produced event and not endorsed or affiliated in any way to the HBO series of course."

UNOFFICIAL: Throne Fest would not be officially endorsed

HUGE: The show has become one of the biggest on TV

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Exploring the woodland which inspired a legend

Hannah Stephenson joins AA Milne biographer Ann Thwaite in Ashdown Forest in pursuit of Pooh

ASHDOWN Forest, less than 30 minutes outside of Tunbridge Wells, and across the boarder in East Sussex, has remained blissfully unmarred by tourism over the years.

But it is here where scenes from the film Goodbye Christopher Robin, out this weekend, were shot and where Winnie-the-Pooh creator AA Milne and his son Christopher Robin had their happiest times.

Today, AA Milne's biographer Ann Thwaite, the film's consultant, is helping me retrace the steps that father and son took in the 1920s on their many walks along this 10 square mile stretch of countryside, the little boy carrying his eponymous bear and his innocent pals Piglet, Tigger, Rabbit, Kanga, Roo, Owl and Eeyore.

Yet there's not a sign, a playground, or any hint of a Disney-esque homage to the most famous bear in the world in sight, as we venture into this gloriously untouched ancient forest, much of which is tranquil, open heathland.

Ann, a sprightly 84-year-old and expert on all things AA Milne, takes fans on the paths trodden by the most lucrative children's author in the world.

"I always get lost," she confesses. "You see groups of scouts doing orienteering, but there's no little model of Winnie-the-Pooh in every corner guiding them.

"The landscape hasn't changed in all those years," she continues. "You can't even hear any traffic. It's very sandy, too. There's a scene in Winnie-the-Pooh when Roo is playing in a sandpit, and if you look at the books you can see where Shepard (illustrator EH Shepard) was drawing the actual place."

FILM: Goodbye Christopher Robin is in cinemas now

The most visible sign that we are in Pooh territory is a wooden signpost to Pooh Bridge, which features in the film. Here we stand, twigs at the ready, chucking the thin wooden sticks in the river - a tributary of the Medway - before darting to the other side to see whose twig appears first.

The film shows that the most intimate moments of Milne's relationship with his son were spent in the forest. But their relationship struggled after the books were published in the 1920s and became huge bestsellers. Christopher Robin had wanted his father to write a story for him, not about him. He unwittingly - and unwillingly - became more famous than his dad and hated the attention he attracted.

He was bullied terribly at school because of the Christopher Robin link and resented everything connected with Winnie-the-Pooh, including his father, who didn't protect him from the excesses of publicity. Christopher Robin Milne died in 1996

While everything around them changed, the forest remained the same.

Goodbye Christopher Robin opens this weekend.

Have a Dodgy pizza

FORMER Britpop stars Dodgy will be playing an acoustic show at Pizza Express Live in Maidstone on November 25.

The band, who had a string of hit singles in the 1990s, including Staying Out for the Summer and Good Enough, will be performing at the venue in Earl Street as part of a string of intimate shows.

Tickets for the three-piece are on sale now and cost £18.

By The Sea's big finale

THE Libertines headline the final night of the By The Sea Festival in Margate this evening (Sunday).

The three-day show had originally been due to see the band perform at Dreamland - where acts such as Everything Everything and Metronomy performed on Friday and Saturday, but the big name headliners and support will now be performing at the town's Winter Gardens due to 'capacity issues'.

Ed's big Spoiler Alert

COMEDIAN Ed Byrne will be bringing his latest observational stand-up show to Maidstone's Hazlitt Theatre on October 17.

The star of shows such as Mock the Week and Dara & Ed's Big Adventure will be bringing his Spoiler Alert show to the county town as part of an extensive UK tour.

Tickets for the show, which starts at 8pm, are on sale now priced at £25.50. Audience members must be 16 or over.

Forum's League show

PUNK legends the Anti-Nowhere League will be back in Tunbridge Wells for a special Christmas show at The Forum later this year.

The band, who formed and played their first gig in the spa town back in 1980 before developing a devoted fanbase, despite a lack of mainstream chart success, will be at the venue on December 23. Tickets for the show cost £10.

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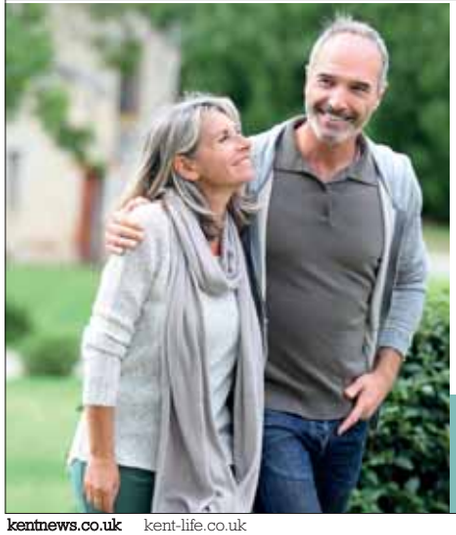

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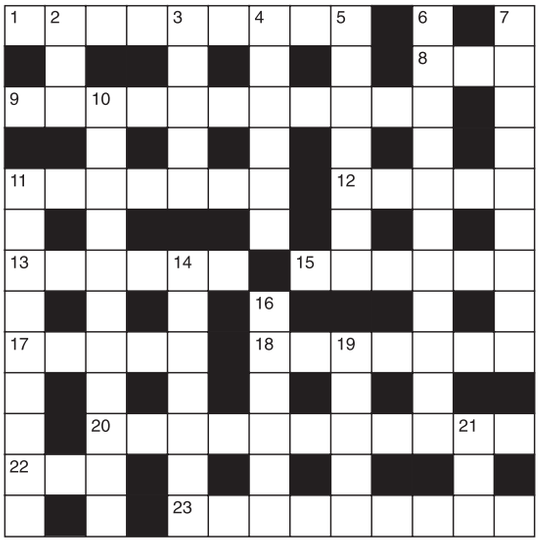
PUZZLES

DOUBLE CROSSWORD



Quick

Across

1. Circuit (9)
8. Aged (3)
9. Dejected (11)
11. Quotation (7)
12. Crop up (5)
13. Ill-natured (6)
15. Strain (6)
17. Don (3,2)
18. External (7)
20. Quibbling (11)
22. Possess (3)
23. Limit (9)

Down

2. Stray (3)
3. Engine (5)
4. Characteristics (6)
5. Trusting (7)
6. Thoughtful (11)
7. Spoke to (9)
10. Charm (11)
11. Anomaly (9)
14. Slavery (7)
16. Former Russian (6)
19. Topic (5)
21. Plant (3)

Cryptic

Across

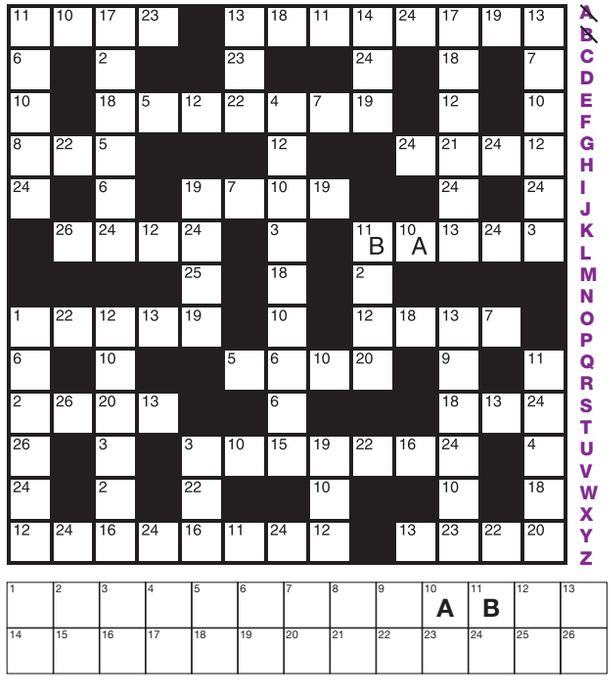
1. Forced to go into service and deeply affected (9)
8. I'd been given a girl's name (3)
9. They are specially designed for handicapped drivers to do the rounds (4,7)
11. Uniform for a man in the services (7)
12. Cleric who may have a prior appointment (5)
13. Observing it's a dumb-bell? (6)
15. Be a shade embarrassed? (6)
17. He takes out capital cover that's not expensive (5)
18. Lady expected to succeed (7)
20. System of book-keeping as old as the Ark? (6,5)
22. Find in the diocese (3)
23. Compulsory turn outs (9)

Down

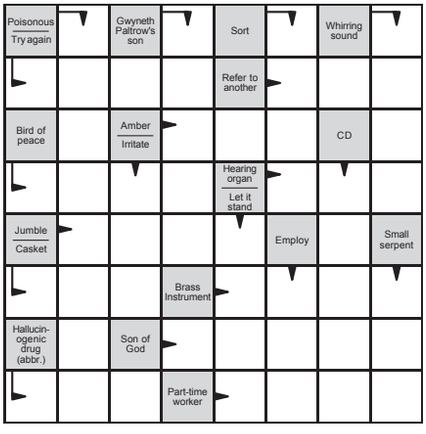
2. Ex leader shows mother love (3)
3. Be best man? (5)
4. Even the score by bribery? (6)
5. Unusual seaside shingles for instance (7)
6. About one put Denis to bed for being insubordinate (11)
7. Vocalists in boaters, perhaps (9)
10. Descriptive of a giddy blonde? (5-6)
11. Rush over to meet (3,6)
14. The main deity (7)
16. Doesn't sound it, but it's hot (6)
19. Nitre treated like nitrogen (5)
21. Lost no time putting up for election (3)

CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter.
For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.



Arrowword



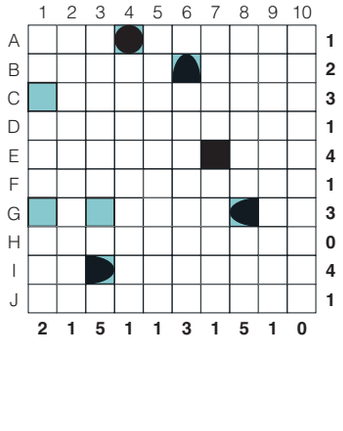
Enter your answers in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Battleships

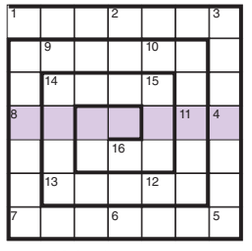
Find where ships shown below are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some of the squares have been filled to start you off.

THE FLEET

1 x Battleship
2 x Cruiser
3 x Destroyer
4 x Submarine



Word Spiral



Starting from 1, fill in the grid clockwise with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the key word in the shaded boxes.

1. Male pig
2. Ladder part
3. Bovid mammal
4. Utensil
5. Volcanic discharge
6. Eagerly expectant
7. Snatch
8. Ship
9. Cab
10. Flower
11. Indian dress
12. Object of worship
13. Vegetable
14. Monarch
15. Deep cut
16. Fifty per cent

Keyword clue: A capital city

SUDOKU

Hard

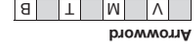
2				1				8
	1		8		6		2	
			9		3			
4	2						5	6
8	9						1	4
			4		2			
	8		1		5		3	
1				6				5

Easy

		7		5	6		8	9
9	5			7			3	
8		6				5		
7	2			1	4	8		6
			8		5		4	
	8	9					5	1
			6			4		3
	3			4				5
6	7		5	2		9		

Solutions

Arrowword



Battleships

Double Crossword

Cryptic

Across: 1 Impressed; 8 Ida; 9 Golf courses; 11 Regular; 12 Abbot; 13 Noting; 15 Redden; 17 Cheap; 18 Heiress; 20 Double entry; 22 See; 23 Evictions.

Down: 2 Mao; 3 Excel; 4 Square; 5 Disease; 6 Disobedient; 7 Baritones; 10 Light-headed; 11 Run across; 14 Neptune; 16 Chilli; 19 Inert; 21 Ran.

Quick

Across: 1 Perimeter; 8 Old; 9 Crestfallen; 11 Excerpt; 12 Arise; 13 Crabby; 15 Stress; 17 Put on; 18 Outward; 20 Evasiveness; 22 Own; 23 Extremity.

Down: 2 Err; 3 Motor; 4 Traits; 5 Reliant; 6 Considerate; 7 Addressed; 10 Enchantment; 11 Exception; 14 Bondage; 16 Soviet; 19 Theme; 21 Set.

Codeword

1=F, 2=O, 3=D, 4=G, 5=P, 6=L, 7=H, 8=Z, 9=Q, 10=A, 11=B, 12=R, 13=S, 14=J, 15=Y, 16=M, 17=C, 18=U, 19=T, 20=N, 21=V, 22=I, 23=K, 24=E, 25=X, 26=W

Word Spiral

1 Boar; 2 Rung; 3 Goat; 4 Tool; 5 Lava; 6 Agog; 7 Grab; 8 Boat; 9 Taxi; 10 Iris; 11 Sari; 12 Idol; 13 Leek; 14 King; 15 Gash; 16 Half.

Keyword: Belfast

Sudoku - Easy

3	4	7	2	5	6	1	8	9
9	5	2	1	7	8	6	3	4
8	1	6	4	3	9	5	7	2
7	2	5	3	1	4	8	9	6
1	6	3	8	9	5	2	4	7
4	8	9	7	6	2	3	5	1
5	9	1	6	8	7	4	2	3
2	3	8	9	4	1	7	6	5
6	7	4	5	2	3	9	1	8

Sudoku - Hard

2	7	9	5	1	4	3	6	8
3	1	5	8	7	6	4	2	9
6	4	8	9	2	3	5	7	1
4	2	1	3	8	9	7	5	6
5	6	7	2	4	1	8	9	3
8	9	3	6	5	7	2	1	4
9	5	6	4	3	2	1	8	7
7	8	4	1	9	5	6	3	2
1	3	2	7	6	8	9	4	5

Undiscovered golf gems of Italy prove a big hit

Kath Sansom gets in the swing with a golfing break in the home of Prosecco...

■ A mountain backdrop makes a stunning setting for these courses in the north-east of Italy.

Take one largely undiscovered Italian region, add some fine food and good wine then throw in a journalist on a mission to learn how to relax by playing golf...

This "golfing and more" trip was a chance for the region's tourist board to shout about all that the Friuli Venezia Guilia region has to offer.

A two-hour flight from London, this farming-rich region boasts a diverse mix of gentle strolls round tranquil lakes, mountain climbs, quirky cities, a rich cultural heritage, scenic drives, intriguing architecture, elaborate churches, regional cheese to die for and decent shopping.

It is also home to this decade's boom wine, Prosecco, but locals are more likely to direct you to its lesser known rival, Ribolla.

However, with plenty of vineyards and bars, there are ample opportunities to make up your own mind and throw in some of the fine local red wines too for good measure.

This trip, however, was primarily to showcase four of the region's seven golf courses, each with a distinct style, all with stunning settings and accompanied by club houses serving quality cuisine with price tags that won't make you wince.

For golfers who fancy a pre-booked lesson, English-speaking pro coaches are on hand to help guide beginners or add a dash of Italian flourish to the swing of the more seasoned player.

Bolting on lessons to the golfing experience proved invaluable a novice like me. By the end of four days, I was reaching a respectable 100 metres with a seven iron – mostly in a straight line, always with a grin.

From formal traditional membership clubs to family friendly courses, this Alps to Adriatic region was voted among undiscovered golf destinations of 2017 by 36 travel writers.

Central is the vibrant and artsy city of Udine whose undulating golf course welcomes families, joggers, walkers and players. It stretches in front of its own Villa Verde Hotel where, just a few weeks earlier, American R n B star Mary J Blige had come for a get-away-from-it-all break.

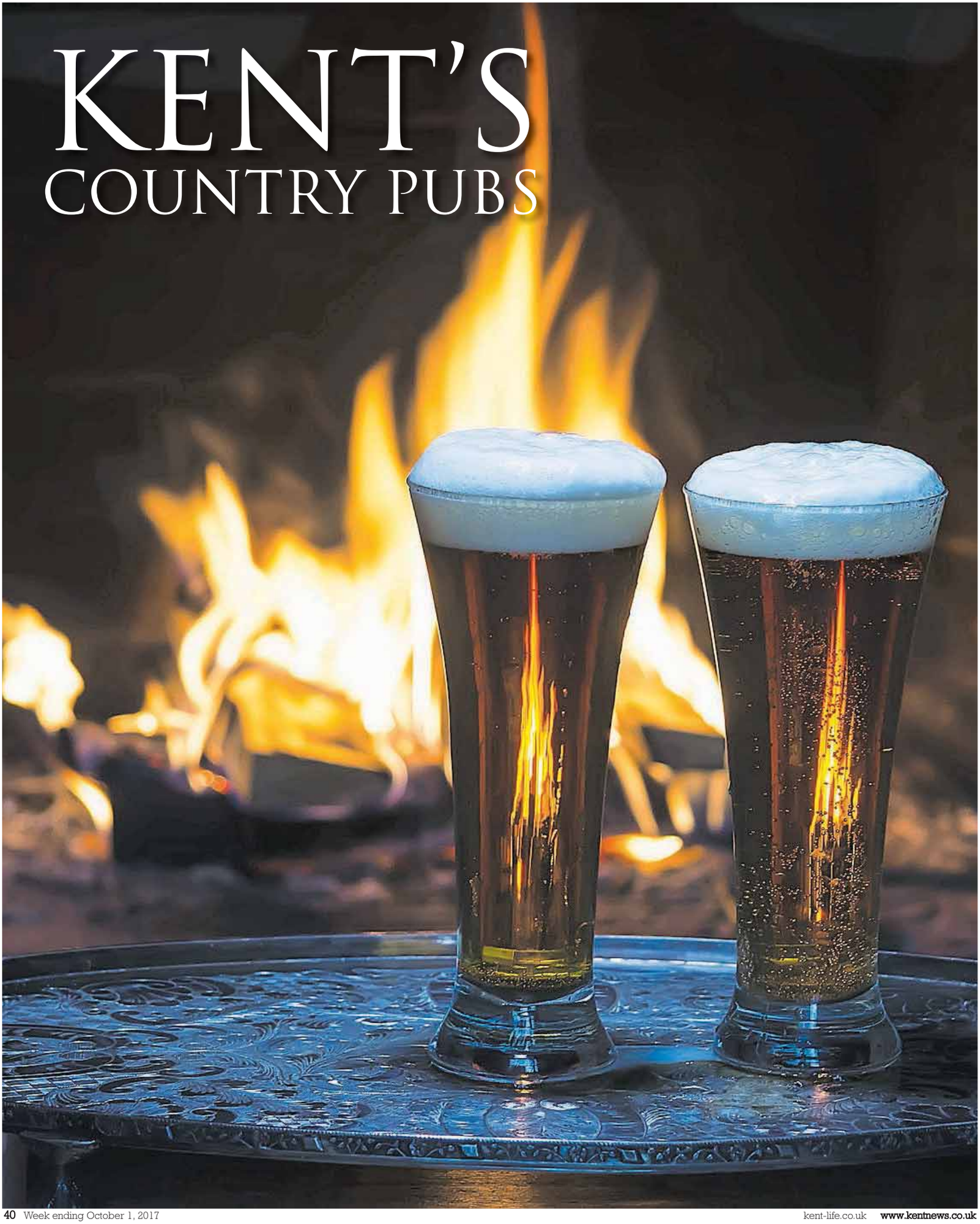
Castle D'Aviano, by comparison to the west, is a predominantly flat course at the bottom of a hill, a few steps from the Hotel Policreti. It's a pretty course that oozes peace from every corner. The hotel and its chef are a bonus.

Tarvisio in the far north east corner had the best mountain views: pure chocolate box, while Trieste's course, built by Allied troops high above the bustling port city, has panoramic views of the sea to one side and rugged karst hills to the other. The 17th hole seems to hang over the sea.

Each of the four courses has something different to offer but all are equally appealing - beautiful settings with much to do once the game is over. And did I learn to relax through golf? To a tee.

For more on these and other golfing experiences in Italy visit the Italy Golf and More website.

KENT'S COUNTRY PUBS



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Sitting in the shadow of Dover Castle lies the Cask Marque accredited White Horse Inn. Dating back to 1365 it is Dover's oldest public house. Today you will find them serving up home cooked food using local suppliers and a ready supply of real ales lagers wines and spirits. The White Horse is not just a traditional pub with an open fire & roof beams though. The main bar decor has a pleasingly eccentric twist whereby successful channel swimmers have come in to sign the walls as a record of their success.

Hours can be spent reading over the names & times. A hidden terrace garden sits to the rear with the spectacular backdrop to the ruins of St James Church which overlooks this sun trap garden. The perfect place to sip one of their extensive range of extravagant gins. Trip Advisor recommendations ensure a continued stream of hungry & thirsty visitors to enjoy this historic grade 2 listed public house.

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For lunch there are salads, sandwiches and smaller options.

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Manston will get night flights

RIVEROAK wants to create the UK's biggest dedicated freight airport at Manston.

Of course Tony Freudmann wants us to believe that RiverOak do not need night flights. But he is wrong.

Firstly, the air freight industry will demand night flights at Manston. This is what the industry body in the UK, the Freight Transport Association, says in its annual logistics report for 2017. On page 50, the FTA quotes James Brass, partner at York Aviation: "Particularly, night flying needs to be protected as it is fundamental to the business model of air freight operators."

On page 51, the FTA continues: "UK airports handle around 2.5 million tonnes of air cargo each year with an estimated trade value of around £360 billion. The economic importance of air cargo night flying in the UK is significant. The night hours are needed to move items to meet deadlines inherent within express services on which shippers rely. It is ultimately a case of being able to fly at night or not being able to offer the service."

Secondly, despite Mr Freudmann's assertions, RiverOak regularly mentions night flights in its published plans for Manston. The RiverOak report clearly indicates that 'up to 18 flights per night is not a noise problem for locals'. It also talks of 'the need for up to eight flights per night' at Manston.

So, do not be misled by Mr Freudmann's soothing words. If RiverOak gets its way, then night flights will happen.

James Baldry,
Ramsgate

Surely airport is a 'no brainer'

AM I missing something? I read constant reports, plans and ideas what to do with Manston Airport.

From a personal point of view and humble opinion, I feel it's a "no brainer" not to develop the site for predominately air freight traffic, which had been the case until recently, with local commercial/holiday flight services to Europe as considered viable.

Heathrow wants to build a third runway and Gatwick a second, both to expand capacity which includes almost certainly air freight, at vast expense and with major upheaval during construction.

With Manston runway already built and with generally good lines of transport out of Kent, this would be a considered better option. Another 70 odd miles to the freight trip would make little or no difference to the delivery time or the environmental impact already made.

With Manston used predominately as a freight hub airport this would release landing slots for other commercial flight traffic at all the other London airports.

Peter Ruthwell,
Shepherdswell

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Could this ease road chaos during harvest?

IN our part of east Kent we are surrounded by large industrially-farmed arable fields, which of course require industrial-sized tractors and other machinery to be moved from location to location.

When these use the lanes, which are public highways, they fill their width, and force other highway users to take evasive action. On a recent walk one of our large dogs was seriously traumatised by an encounter with an agricultural behemoth because we couldn't get him out of the way in time. The driver should have stopped to let us get to a safe place, but, probably because of his contractual timetabling, he pressed on past us. This has not been the only occurrence.

Pedestrians and walkers of dogs, but also horse-riders and cyclists, must feel they haven't really the free use of Kent's lanes.

We think we have a solution.

Large arable fields should have set-aside strips around their perimeters, something like five metres wide. These would allow agricultural machinery to use the field perimeters rather than the public highways when moving to different areas for use. The fields are generally linked anyway (thanks to the grubbing up of hedgerows in the past). The strips would reduce sprayed pesticide drift, and encourage hedgerow growth (which would also protect against drift and soil erosion), and protect wildlife. They would reduce the amount of hazardous substances in transit on public routes. And they would also help traffic flow during rat-run times.

Of course the farmers would have to sacrifice some otherwise productive areas, but shouldn't there be a proportionate balance set against profit for the sake of safety, environmental benefit and country neighbourliness?

David Cormack and Heather Martin
Shepherdswell

Airport has tried and failed in past

DO people realise Manston Airport has tried and failed over and over again in the recent past? Do people realise that every firm which operated out of it said the same things and all failed to make it commercially successful?

I wish RiverOak well. But they will learn the hard way. And it's the people of Thanet who will pay the price as hope, faith and jobs are shattered again.

P Turner,
Margate

We'll miss them when they're gone

IN recent years the yearning to look backward and to return to the certainties of the past has dogged the political and social outlook in Kent, Yet almost unseen, covert corporate interests are eroding our liberties and our heritage with almost impunity.

Here are two examples: The paper that contains this letter is the remainder of a once great industry that is fast fading before our eyes. Local newspapers are closing in large numbers. This paper is surviving with a handful of journalists writing stories that are based on evidence and at least some fact checking.

Newspapers are being replaced by social media chocked full of fake news and rabid internet trolls; is that progress and is it good for our democracy?

The other example is the corporate greed pursued by the Dover Harbour Board in insisting on dredging the Goodwin sands to build its yacht marina.

The Goodwin Sands is our heritage and the graveyard of many seafarers. Dredging can not protect the environment or the archeology.

If it was not for the Crown commissioners and the DHB, the Goodwins would surely qualify as a World Heritage Site in the same way as the white cliffs; yet it sits there unprotected and ripe for exploitation and short term gain by an uncaring elite.

Would we allow the white cliffs to be mined or one of the many war graves in France or Belgium, to be excavated for minerals, so why are seafarers and the Goodwins treated any differently?

Why are our politicians silent? Why is no one taking time off from squabbling about Manston aerodrome to fight this loss of our heritage and maritime environment?

If they are conservatives, why are they not conserving our heritage and environment?

George Noakes,
Dover

CEO left trust in no better health

FROM bitter personal experience being on the wrong end of Matthew Kershaw [outgoing CEO of east Kent hospitals trust] signing off on a most implausible apologia last year for a 10 hour nightmare in A&E at the QEQM - no communicated diagnosis or treatment plan- is not to be wished on any patient under his stewardship.

That the fleeing CEO intends to sell his 'wisdom and expertise' to the Kings Fund with its vision that "the best possible health care is available to all", is a truly frightening prospect.

Steve Dymond,
Broadstairs

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.

images of kent

Punts on Stour at Canterbury

by **Ernie Jordan, from Margate**

To see your photograph printed, email **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk**,. Be sure to include your name, address and a contact telephone number. Unfortunately we cannot return any prints, and please do not send negatives.

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Rhine Christmas Markets River Cruise

Koblenz, Rüdesheim & Mainz

By Rail from Ebbsfleet or Air

11 December, 2017 - Quote RH11-KOS

Come with us on a festive river cruise on the majestic Rhine in southern Germany and visit some of Europe's best Christmas Markets. Travel by rail or air to join the cruise in Cologne and relax on board the MV Prinses Christina as she glides silkily past historic riverside towns. Enjoy the festive markets in Koblenz, Rüdesheim and Mainz.

INCLUDED: Escorted Eurostar travel from St Pancras and Ebbsfleet OR flights with luggage from a choice of UK airports - supp't may apply • 4-night full-board cruise on the MV Prinses Christina sharing a twin bed cabin on Main Deck - upgrades available • Transfers abroad • Services of our Cruise Director on board

**Sale price is based on a Free cabin upgrade from cabin deck LSTD usually £499pp up to main deck MSTD usually £599pp.

Rhine New Year Party River Cruise

Cologne, Koblenz & Rüdesheim

By Rail from Ebbsfleet or Air from Gatwick

29 December, 2017 - Quote RN12-KOS

Welcome in the New Year with the splendours and stunning scenery along the Rhine on this relaxing river cruise on board the 4-star Mps Switzerland II which hosts you in style with all meals, selected free drinks plus sparkling wine and spirits on New Year's Eve, and entertainment in an informal, fun & friendly atmosphere. This holiday visits the famous towns of Cologne, Koblenz, and Rüdesheim where we welcome in the New Year with a celebration dinner and entertainment.

INCLUDED: Entertainment • Beer, wine by the glass, and soft drinks served at lunch and dinner and from 10am to 1am at the bar • Escorted rail travel from St Pancras and Ebbsfleet OR return flights with luggage from a choice of UK airports - supp't may apply • 4-nights full board cruise on the 4-star MPS Switzerland II • Transfers abroad • Services of our Cruise Director on board

Dutch Bulbs & Amsterdam Waterways Cruise

Amsterdam, Enkhuizen, Keukenhof Gardens, Volendam & Hoorn

By Rail from Ebbsfleet or Air from Gatwick

23 April, 2018 - Quote BD4-KOS

Join us for our exclusive, fun and friendly cruise on board the MV Prinses Christina. Holland in springtime is a mesmerising feast for the senses with gardens and fields bursting with tulips and, daffodils, hyacinths and more. A visit to Keukenhof Gardens, with its magnificent floral displays, is included. There is time to explore the canals, museums and flower markets of Amsterdam, plus Enkhuizen, Volendam and Hoorn.

INCLUDED: Escorted return rail travel St Pancras and Ebbsfleet to Amsterdam OR return flights with luggage from a choice of UK airports - supp't may apply • 4-nights full board cruise sharing a twin bed outside cabin on Cabin Deck - upgrades available • Beer, wine by the glass and soft drinks served at lunch, dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Morning coffee and afternoon tea • Buffet breakfast and lunch • Dinner served at your table • Captain's dinner • Entertainment • Excursion to Keukenhof Gardens • Transfers abroad • Services of our Cruise Director on board

Rhine Wine Festival Lightning Night & Moselle River Cruise

Cologne, Cochem, Koblenz, Rüdesheim, Andernach & Boppard

By Rail from Ebbsfleet or Air from Gatwick

20 September, 2018 - Quote RN9-KOS

This fabulous cruise takes in the Rhine and Moselle Rivers, Boppard wine festival and the 'Lightning Night on the Middle Rhine' fireworks display. Our exclusively chartered, 4-star ship MS Carmen, provides 136 guests with a friendly crew, great food, superb service, entertainment and spacious en-suite cabins - all with picture windows. With visits to Cologne, Cochem, Koblenz, Rüdesheim, Andernach and Boppard, this is a magical voyage that will stay in your memory for years to come.

INCLUDED: Entertainment • Beer, wine & soft drinks served at lunch and dinner and from 6pm to 11pm at the bar • Escorted rail travel from St Pancras and Ebbsfleet to Brussels and coach to Cologne or return flights with luggage to Cologne - supp't may apply • 7 nights full board plus cruise on the MS Carmen in a single lower deck cabin or sharing a front mid-deck double/twin-bed cabin - upgrades available • Captain's dinner - 5 courses • Transfers abroad • Services of our Cruise Director on board

*Conditions apply to low deposits - please call for details

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LIMITED: Only 100 Toyota Yaris GRMNs are coming to the UK.

Reservations open for the rally-bred Toyota Yaris

THIS rally-bred Toyota Yaris is set to be one of the hottest new cars of the year and you'll have to be quick to own one.

The Yaris GRMN is inspired and influenced by the Yaris WRC, with which Toyota returned to the FIA World Rally Championship with event-winning success, but only 400 will be made for Europe with just 100 for UK customers.

Priced £26,295 on the road, the Yaris GRMN is available for pre-ordering now and Toyota has launched a special customer finance offer of a £4,959 deposit, 42 monthly repayments of £299 and a guaranteed future value/optional final payment of £11,880 via an Access Toyota PCP (personal contract purchase) deal.

Online reservations are open until October 31 with customers paying a £1,000 reservation fee at www.toyota.co.uk

The 209bhp 1.8-litre engine, uniquely in the hot hatch class equipped with a supercharger, drives the front wheels through a six-speed manual transmission, for 0-62mph in 6.3 seconds and a top speed limited to 143mph.

The chassis has been stiffened with extra bracing and the car hugs the ground, sitting 24mm lower than the standard model with shorter springs.

Sachs performance shocks are fitted and the anti-roll bar beefed up to a 26mm to give secure, responsive handling. Stopping power comes from 275mm grooved front discs with four-pot callipers and 278mm rear discs.

The three-door Yaris GRMN broadcasts its exclusive status with a Toyota Gazoo Racing white paint finish and front and side decals that echo the Yaris WRC's red, black and white competition livery. A set of 17inch BBS lightweight alloys, performance exhaust with centre oval tailpipe, honeycomb front grille, red detailing on the front lip and black wing-type rear spoiler add to the visual impact.

KENT LIFE

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EMERSON PARK

LAUNCH EVENT

SATURDAY 21ST OCT 10AM – 4PM

VENUE: Rowhill Grange Hotel & Utopia Spa, Wilmington, Kent DA2 7QH Sat Nav Postcode BR8 7SQ

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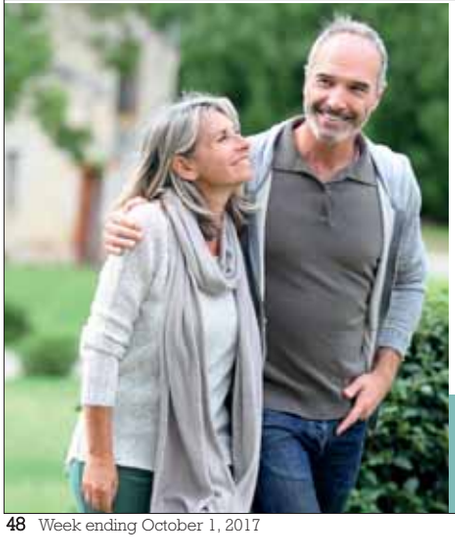

Join us at our LAUNCH EVENT on Saturday 21st Oct (10am – 4pm) and learn more about the development at Emerson Park.

Meet the team... view the floorplans... find out more about the 47 superior apartments. Emerson Park benefits from exceptional private amenities and facilities including a Club room, bar, cinema, gym, hair salon and transport services.

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 2003:
Application for Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that Adam Smith of 56 Castle Street, Canterbury CT12PY has applied to Canterbury City Council for the VARIATION STATEMENT of a Premises Licence

Water Lane Café would like to extend the current premises licence, Monday to Friday to 1000 - 2130, Saturday to 1000 - 2230 and Sunday to 1000 - 1730 for the premises Water Lane Cafe situated at Units 3 & 4, 22-24 Stour Street, Canterbury, CT1 2NQ

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW tel. 01227 862000 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 18/10/2017.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

LICENSING ACT 2003:

Application for Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that ARBEN SALIU of DUE AMICI, Hop Farm, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6PY has applied to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council for the GRANT of alcohol, live music, take away for the premises DUE AMICI situated at

Any person wishing to submit representations about the proposals should make them in writing to: Licensing Services, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ giving in detail the grounds of objection by 20/09/2017

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary of conviction for the offence is £5000.

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NCA
National Crime Agency

G5 Investigators x 9 vacancies

Project INVIGOR (vacancy reference - HP16575LW)

Location: Kent

Closing Date: Midday 12/10/2017

Salary: PIP1 or equivalent - £24,964 | PIP2 or equivalent – up to £30,626

Where existing Civil Servants apply on transfer to the NCA at the equivalent grade, pay principles on Civil Service transfers will apply. All other salary offers will be made within the advertised band.

Summary

The NCA leads the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime including, people smuggling and human trafficking. Project INVIGOR is the NCA-led UK law enforcement Taskforce response to organised immigration crime (OIC). Opportunities now exist to join the Project INVIGOR Dedicated Investigation Team focussed on OIC, with the aims of pursuing and prosecuting those crime groups which present the most significant risk.

The Investigator role will include the handling of intelligence and the development of operational plans to tackle OIC, working with partner agencies, managing risk and gathering evidence to prosecute the individuals and gangs involved.

Candidates will be required to complete the NCA application form, providing a CV and a 750 word narrative providing examples of their experience of investigating serious and complex crime. Successful candidates should have PIP1 or equivalent investigative accreditation and recent experience and training in Criminal Procedures and Investigation Act 1996. Other desirable criteria would be PIP2 or equivalent accreditation, proven experience and accreditation in Suspect Interviewing, handling of exhibits and experience of applying for communications data under Regulations of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

To apply: Please visit the NCA website www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/careers for further information and details on the application process.

Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEQM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

Senior Physiotherapist (Margate and Ashford)

Full Time – 37.5 hours per week **Salary – £30,000 - £32,000 per annum**
Closing Date – 15 October 2017 **Interview Date – TBC**

Qualifications and Experience

- BSc/Equivalent in Physiotherapy
- Member of CSP
- Current HCPC Registration
- 5-7 years post graduate experience
- Proven clinical experience in the delivery of Orthopaedic and MSK Physiotherapy
- Previous experience in a supervisory/management role
- Ability to travel to meet service needs

To discuss these opportunities, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:
Adebayo Tijani, Physiotherapist Manager on 07479987931

Medical Secretary (Margate)

Full Time – 37.5 hours per week **Salary – Dependent on experience**
Closing Date – 10 October 2017 **Interview Dates – 18/10/2017 or 19/10/2017 (PM only)**

Qualifications and Experience

- Maths and English (GCSE or equivalent) grade C or above
- Audio Typist Qualification
- Minimum 2 years' experience working in a medical environment
- Minimum 2 years' experience in an audio typist role or similar
- Excellent working knowledge of Word/Excel/Outlook
- Ability to travel between sites

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:
Kerry Goulding, Senior Medical Secretary on 01843 234247

Previous applicants need not apply.

For job descriptions and application forms please visit our website:
www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Daisy Bannister, HR Assistant
Telephone: 01304 222690 E-mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com

Spencer Private Hospitals is an equal opportunity employer.
This position is subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.

Spencer PRIVATE HOSPITALS

Vacancies

Heritage Will Writers
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Estate Planning Consultant

Role: Estate Planning Consultant
Location: Kent area
Salary: Basic Salary + Un-capped Commission + Mileage

Heritage Will Writers are looking for a highly motivated individual with strong client focus to join our team based in the Kent area as an Estate Planning Consultant. The individual should be driven by a natural and honest quest to seek the best advice for our clients; this will require the applicant to develop their knowledge of the industry through continuous learning. The right applicant will be the face of the company and be based in the Kent area. You will be passionate about our company values and strive to ensure our clients future is safe guarded.

The successful candidate for the role of Estate Planning Consultant will have the following duties and responsibilities:

- Visiting new clients and existing clients in their homes, place of work or in the Heritage Offices advising them on estate planning solutions.
- Taking detailed instruction of Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney and Trusts.
- Build and maintain strong working relationships with new and existing clients.
- Continuous training and development to ensure advice is relevant at all times.

In order to be considered for the role of Estate Planning Consultant you will have gained the following skills and experience:

- GCSE English & Math
- A-Levels (Desirable)
- University Degree (Desirable)
- Some commercial experience working in sales would be highly desirable
- The applicant will have a keen eye for detail, be a great listener and be passionate about the legal industry. Experience within the legal field is desirable, however not a necessity.
- Driving License and access to your own vehicle is essential
- Motivation, client focused and eager to learn are the key attributes for this role.
- Due to the nature of the job you will be looking at problems and formulating the best solution for the client, for that reason, evidence of problem solving and solution planning is advantageous.

In return you will benefit from working for a growing company in a role offering a competitive OTE and the opportunity to grow and develop in your career.

To apply for the role of Estate Planning Consultant please send an up to date cv to:
ocann@heritagewills.co.uk

Exhibition Stand Representative

Location: Kent area (mobile based role)
Hourly Rate: £7.50 p/h Plus Commission and Mileage
Position type: Part- time
(Thursday and Friday – 12 hour p/w contract)

Heritage Legal and Financial were established in 2001 and we have become East Anglia and the South East's leading dedicated Will writing service, serving tens of thousands of clients. As a result of company growth we currently have openings for an Exhibition Stand Representative to join our team and be based in the Norfolk area or around Harlow, Huntingdon, or Cambridge locality. You will plan and carry out sales activities on assigned areas. You will be responsible for informing of and displaying products to customers and managing service expectations, quality of product and service delivery in a face to face environment.

The successful candidate for the role of Exhibition Stand Representative will have the following duties and responsibilities:

- Generate and partially qualify leads whilst presenting a positive impression of Heritage
- Set up and collapse an Exhibition Stand
- Source and develop client referrals from face to face contact
- Ensure that you are available for all scheduled and planned Exhibition Stand events
- Assist in the development and maintain sales and promotional materials across all exhibition stands
- Attend and assist with all events that require an exhibition stand i.e County fairs and local events
- Develop and make presentations of company products and services to current and potential clients
- Maintain customer activity records and transfer these onto a bespoke database
- Ensure customer service satisfaction and good client relationships
- Monitor and report on engagement activities and follow up for management.

In return you will benefit from working for a growing company in a role offering part-time working hours and the opportunity to develop your skills and earn uncapped commission.

To apply for the role of Exhibition Stand Representative please send an up to date cv to:
atooth@heritagewills.co.uk

Kent season ends with a whimper

County were comfortably beaten by Glamorgan this week

Cricket

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

KENT'S county championship season ended with a whimper this week as they were comfortably beaten by Glamorgan at Canterbury.

After the now seemingly-annual bright start to the four-day campaign, Kent's early momentum quickly fizzled out and they ended the season a disappointing fifth, behind Sussex, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and champions Worcestershire.

Veteran Darren Stevens ended the season on a high, with the 41-year-old claiming a total of 63 wickets in the competition at an average of 18.08, but that fact will prove scant consolation for a side that was determined to make up for the disappointment of 12 months ago, and clinch promotion to division one.

In better news for the county, however, the club announced this week that promising academy scholar Ollie Robinson had signed his first professional contract with Kent.

The 18-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman will turn pro in 2018 after three years with the club's prolific academy.

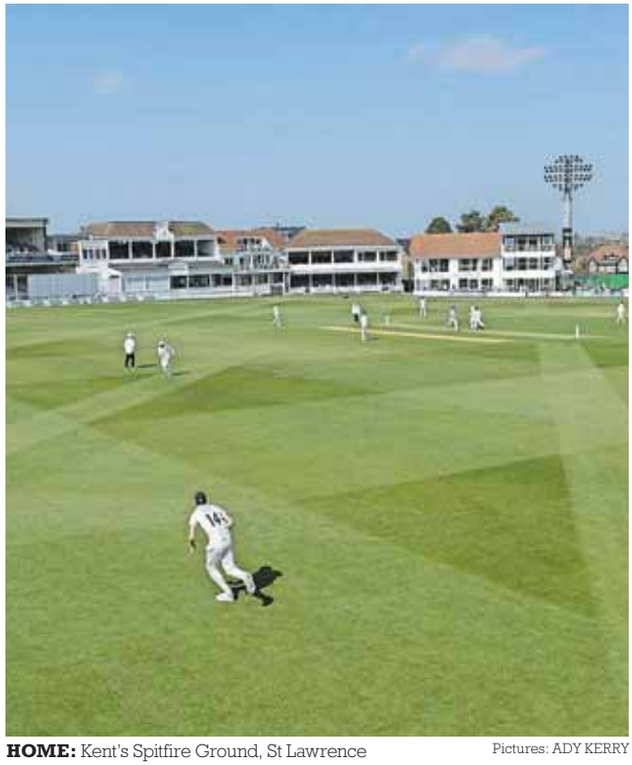
The Beckenham batsman, who has also played for Bexley and Sidcup, scored his maiden second XI century this summer and was selected for the FGS Plant pre-season tour.

Robinson, who represented England Under-19s this summer, said: "It's been great working with the first team squad more regularly and I've learned so much from the players and coaches.

"I've been at Kent through all the age group squads and it's a dream come true to turn professional. My ultimate aim is to push for a first-team spot but I just want to keep working hard and developing my game."

High performance director Jason Weaver, who oversees the club's academy programme, added: "Ollie is a very talented wicketkeeper and batsman and it's a great opportunity for him to continue developing in a professional environment.

"Our academy programme has prepared him for many of the demands of professional cricket and it's a great reward for Ollie's hard work, and all the coaches involved in his development so far."



HOME: Kent's Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence

Pictures: ADY KERRY

County town ready for Judgement Day show

Boxing

MAIDSTONE is gearing up to host a wealth of home-grown boxing talent on JE Promotions' much-anticipated Judgement Day show.

It's the fifth event that promoter Joe Elfidh has staged at the Mote Park venue and the eight-fight card is set to be the biggest one yet.

Unbeaten super-featherweight Charlie Shane (4-0), 26 from Chatham, headlines in a British Challenge belt contest against 58-fight veteran Lewis van Poetsch.

Southpaw Shane steps up to eight-rounds against 'Poochi', who comes into the fight confidently off the back of a points win over unbeaten prospect Carwyn Herbert.

Elsewhere, Dave Jones (8-0) steps up to fight Dorian Darch (12-5) as he begins his hunt for a shot at the Southern Area heavyweight title.

CONFIDENT: Grant Dennis

Welshman Darch has beaten a Midlands and Southern Area champion in his career, as well as sharing the ring with Hughie Fury and Anthony Joshua in back-to-back fights.

He will provide the 35-year-old from Queenborough with a stern test and, should he get through it, a shot at the Southern Area or an eliminator will likely arise next.

Also featuring on the bill in their home county are English super-bantamweight champion Josh Kennedy, from Folkestone and Chatham's middleweight Southern Area champion, Grant Dennis, who is on the hunt for the English title.

Tickets are still available for the show next Saturday, with doors opening at 5.30pm ahead of the first fight at 7pm.

Sport Shorts

» Email **sports@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **Tom Pyman** on **01233653477**

Fleet and Stones stars given England C calls

THREE players from Kent clubs have been selected for an England C training camp next month.

Maidstone United defender Alex Wynter and Ebbsfleet United stars Darren McQueen and Jack Powell are part of Paul Fairclough's 22-man squad for the three-day event which is being held at Lilleshall National Sports Centre.

Those 22 players will then be whittled down to a final 16 man squad for a fixture in Slovakia in November.

McQueen and Powell made their debuts against the Panjab FA in the summer, with McQueen scoring twice, and then also played against a Jersey FA XI.

Meanwhile, Fleet's Sam Magri will be off on international duty again soon to link up with Malta for their games against Lithuania and Slovakia which take place over the weekend of the north Kent side's trip to Macclesfield Town.

Stones boss Jay Saunders told the club's webiste: "I am really pleased for Wynts – he's done well since he joined us and deserves this opportunity."

PROSPECT: Jack Powell

CHAMPION: Shane 'Shakey' Byrne

Byrne keen to make up for 'utter disaster'

KENT'S Shane 'Shakey' Byrne insists he is ready to make up for an "utter disaster" in the previous round of the British Superbike Championship as the Showdown rolls into Assen this weekend.

The Sittingbourne rider missed out on a podium place at Oulton Park and sits 23 points adrift of leader Leon Haslem in the overall standings.

However, the five-time champion claims he has brushed off the disappointment and is ready to make amends.

Byrne said: "It is fairly obvious that Oulton Park was a complete, utter disaster and definitely not how we wanted to kick off the Showdown. That said we are ready to come back at Assen this weekend that's for sure."

Plant fails to blossom in Portugal

ALFIE Plant struggled on his first outing on to the professional golf circuit after failing to make the cut in the Portugal Masters.

The former Dartford postman, 25, who lives in Bexleyheath, picked up a silver medal at The Open this year after he shot the best round of any amateur at Royal Birkdale in July.

And after competing in the amateur tournament the Walker Cup earlier this year he took the plunge and turned pro.

Given an invitation to perform at the prestigious event which started last week and concluded at the weekend, he carded two rounds of three over par, to leave him six over in total and below the requirement to compete in the final two rounds.

Keep up-to-date with all Kent's sports news via social media on:
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